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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2012



Llantwit Major Christmas Limelight! Pages 17-20

A festive look at Holton Road, Barry Pages 25-28



Young mum's plea on Blue Badge for her daughter (aged 2)

FAMILIES with toddlers who have severe learning difficulties may succeed in getting Blue Badges, after local MP Alun Cairns highlighted the case of a young Barry mum and her two-year-old daughter.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

The daughter has Down's syndrome, but the family is not eligible for a Blue Badge, enabling them to park close to the shops. The family don't wish to be identified but the young mum did

speak to The GEM, explaining that a Blue Badge would be a huge help to the family.

"My daughter has Down's syndrome and has had major heart surgery, so walking long distances to shops causes big issues.

"She gets very upset about being put in a pushchair and would like to walk.

"In Tesco, there are mother and baby spaces, but they don't always have them in local shopping areas."

The mum explained that the ideal solution for the family would be to be able to use the Blue Badge close to the shops in High Street, Barry so her daughter

could happily walk the short distance to them.

If she does walk long distances because she doesn't want to get in a pushchair, the toddler suffers severe pain in her legs.

Ironically, when her daughter reaches three, the mum understands, she will be able to get a Blue Badge on the grounds that her daughter "does not have danger awareness".

Mr Cairns took up the case after the Vale Council had declined an application for a badge from the family, because it had to follow rules set down by the Welsh Government. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

BOMBETTES SCRUM DOWN FOR THEIR NEW CALENDAR



Picture by ANDY WICKS
(See full story on page 4).

High Street gets set for big lights switch-on!

ORGANISERS of the High Street Christmas lights switch-on are looking forward to the event's traditionally large crowd tomorrow, November 23.

Sharon George told The GEM: "People should be aware there are road closures, with Island Road being closed at 2pm and High Street at 3pm.

"The event starts at 4pm, with lights switching-on at 6.30pm

"Father Christmas will switch on the lights.

"Mickey and Minnie and two

Olympic torch bearers, Nicholas Cushen and James French, will be among the special guests."

Helen George added: "We've also got lots of entertainment including local school choirs, displays by the Nicola Peros Ballet School, a karate group, Superstars in the Making, and Billboard Ensemble.

"There will also be the V-Pod youth bus, bouncy castles, fairground rides, face-painting and 'Back to November' playing in Habaneras at 6.45pm after the switch-on."

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'LDP: decision falls short of scrapping it'

REFER to your article HEAD-ED, 'Vale to get new blueprint as the LDP is scrapped' (Barry GEM, November 15) and would suggest the council's announcement and cabinet report are very much planning officials' attempt to moderate the impact of Labour's election pledge to scrap the LDP.

Not scrapped, because the LDP preferred strategy is to remain in place, and that is the foundation for the preparation of the LDP and many of its problems.

This strategy was constructed following two 'stakeholder' meetings that considered options for housing development, excluding option 8a (Llandow).

I have previously raised questions about the composition of the so-called 'stakeholder' group and the subsequent analysis by council officials. However,

there are many other reasons for the council to step back to a time before the preferred strategy was agreed.

Firstly, this decision was based on the provision of 7,500 dwellings, not the 11,000 now proposed; housing was to be concentrated in Barry and the south-east zone, ignoring the potential for development and infrastructure improvements in the western Vale.

The desperate need for an improved infrastructure appears not to have been a concern at that time; and the potential for a Severn barrage was not part of the analysis.

The cabinet report is unhelpful in assessing the options available to a council elected with the promise to scrap the LDP and paints a rather rosy picture of some events.

However, it does confirm that it is just the latest stage in the LDP process that is to be repeated.

Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY supporter.

Look closer to home!

IN reply to Mr Christopher Short's letter in The GEM last week, the American electorate cast their vote and made their choice – for better or worse, has yet to be seen.

But before casting aspersions on President Obama's veracity – after all, he is a politician – maybe Mr Short should cast a wary eye on our own Government, not exactly perfect, are they?

There are issues of far more long-reaching importance that concern us. Name and address supplied.

Dogs Trust grateful for public's support

IT'S nearly time to start wishing people merry Christmas, and we'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has made this year at Dogs Trust Cowbridge Charity Boutique go with a bang!

From the donations of beautiful Welsh blankets and original works of art, to the support shown at our upcycling/crafting event, first birthday cele-

brations and Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival – the team and I have been overwhelmed by the continuing support.

All of the pounds raised go directly to help the dogs at the nearby Dogs Trust Bridgend and we've been astounded by the backing of the local community.

Here's to another great year ahead of us! Merry Christmas to you all, and we hope to see you in the shop soon.

Jael Jones, Dogs Trust Cowbridge Charity Boutique.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Vale LDP: 'We will honour our pledges'

I SHOULD like to respond to some of the letters and articles that have been in your newspaper over the last couple of months, concerning the Local Development Plan

(LDP), suggesting that Labour has reneged on its election promise to replace the LDP imposed on us by the Tories when they controlled the Vale Council.

Some people have

claimed we had already made a decision when clearly we had not. Some had said we took too long – we did not.

I also refute the claim made by the Leader of the Conservatives in the Assembly, that we have been embarrassed into making this decision and that we should have done it as soon as we took office in May.

The fact is that the council's constitution prevented us from overturning his Tory colleagues' decision for six months.

The reality is that we promised not to make any knee-jerk reactions and to produce a report that was understandable, reasoned and logical – and would be the basis for producing a sustainable alternative LDP – just as we pledged.

We have, therefore, considered all the options and decided how this can best be done.

If the council agrees our recommendation in January 2013, the process of producing the replacement LDP

'HEALTH IS NOT A PARTY ISSUE'

LAST week, Mr G Smith rightly pointed out that health in Wales is primarily a matter for Assembly Members rather than MPs.

However, he went on to criticise me for highlighting longer waiting times here in Wales compared to other parts of the UK.

Surely, I have a responsibility to report best practice wherever it occurs? A recent article in The GEM reported two ladies from Barry travelling to Westminster to highlight that the target waiting time for an urgent breast cancer con-

sultation in Wales is 62 days (for 95 per cent of cases), where the target in England is two weeks for all cases.

My GEM column focused on the calls made to me from the independent charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer. This is not a party issue.

Receiving urgent cancer treatment is a priority, and although I agree that the NHS is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government, I am still committed to supporting constituents who come to my advice surgeries, many in a desperate state because of unacceptable delays.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Police election plumbs new depths

AS THE November 15 election of a Police Commissioner drew closer, did GEM readers, like myself, expect to see some information regarding who was standing for election appear through the letterbox?

In fact, no information was forthcoming, and it soon became apparent just how much contempt our self-serving political masters have for the electorate.

They have plumbed new depths this time: 15 per cent was the best turn-out, but some ballot boxes were even found empty.

When are the political classes, local and national, going to wake up and realise that the abysmal turn-out at all types of election is miserably low

for one very good reason – we are sick and tired of 'politicians' milking the system, providing mediocre representation and pathetic outcomes.

Until we get statesmen whose aim is to serve and improve society, voting will remain low, and more importantly undemocratic and unrepresentative of the people.

This is not a rant against the Conservative coalition, because the other lot took us into two wars and bankrupted the country.

It may only have been a Police Commissioner being elected but wake up, politicians, and realise we no longer trust, respect or appreciate your offerings.

The post of Police Commissioner, despite all the spin, is a political appointment. G Tipples, Barry.

'Wildlife needs help – NOW!'

THE illegal wildlife trade is a big problem for many of the world's most vulnerable species.

It's the fifth largest global illegal trade after drugs, counterfeiting, human trafficking and oil.

It is second only to habitat destruction as a cause of species loss and potential extinction!

This is also an issue close to home, with trafficking of illegal wildlife products taking place in the UK and across our borders.

Most shockingly, one of the world's largest seizures of rhino horn was in London. Other recent incidents have involved the trade in elephant ivory, tiger claws, tortoiseshells, turtles and whale bone.

In order to tackle this massive rise in wildlife trade the last Labour Government set up the National Wildlife Crime

Unit to work with border police and other police forces worldwide to detect and prevent wildlife crime in the UK.

Its 15 members of staff have doubled the recorded conviction rate for cases in recent years and helped the UK gain international recognition for its commitment to tackling wildlife crime.

It is now under risk. The National Wildlife Crime Unit has guaranteed Government funding until March next year. We need Westminster Government Ministers and MPs of all parties to recognise the vital role that this small unit does in protecting our wildlife.

Please take a few moments to write, e-mail, telephone or talk in person to your local MP to ask him or her to support the work of this vital wildlife police unit. Coun Rob Curtis, Barry.

ANSWER IS TO MOVE BUS STOP!

THERE have been a variety of letters in your pages concerning bus stops in the Vale of Glamorgan, most particularly in Cowbridge.

I welcome the engineering solution matching the kerb height to the bus floor height, a real benefit to persons with disabilities and pushchair users.

However, there is, in many cases, a near total failure to match the bus door opening with the sign, the shelter length or raised kerb.

This failure is particularly easy to see in Cowbridge High Street near Lloyds Bank. In addition, at this site, thoughtless parking by blue badge holders and/or goods vehicle drivers frequently cause the X2 to block the entire road when it stops

to pick up passengers.

One simple solution would be to move the stop, shelter and raised kerbs further towards the crossing, where it was previously located; and make the yellow bus stop box and white zig-zag lines contiguous.

This would improve the ability of the X2 to enter fully the marked area and re-enter traffic, without negotiating parked cars displaying blue badges.

Such a solution would also allow the new traffic enforcers, when deployed to Cowbridge, to more easily enforce the regulations.

Other sites throughout the length of the A48 in the Vale of Glamorgan area of responsibility should also be reviewed, with a view to establishing a standard design approach to assist passengers and drivers alike.

Dr Paul Langmaid, Cowbridge.

'COMPLAINT WAS DEALT WITH'

I REFER to your correspondent, Mike Neate, who raised the issue of a lack of street bins at Llantwit Major, in The GEM last week.

I was extremely disappointed to read this letter, having responded to an email from Mr Neate on this subject within 24 hours of receiving the communication on November 9 and taking action.

In fact, emails were exchanged between Clifford Parish, operational manager for waste management on Monday, November 12 and Mr Neate; there were further emails on November 14, at which time Mr Neate expressed his gratitude for the response from Mr Parish.

All this was actioned before this letter was published on November 15, which indicated that

the council are failing the public, when they are not.

If Mr Neate had not received a response, then I could have understood his complaint to the press; however, I think it is totally unfair to send letters to the press when a councillor is already taking action.

The Llantwit First Independent councillors are always available to respond to the residents' complaints and we look forward to receiving your call, or to meet you at a visit to our surgery, on the first and third Saturday of the month at Llantwit Major Heritage Centre.

Coun Gwyn John, Llantwit Major, Cabinet member, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Email us at:
gemeditorial
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HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 29)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	00.47	8.0	13.21	8.2
23 Fri	01.52	8.1	14.23	8.3
24 Sat	02.58	8.3	15.21	8.5
25 Sun	03.53	8.6	16.18	8.8
26 Mon	04.41	8.8	17.01	9.0
27 Tues	05.22	9.2	17.41	9.3
28 Wed	05.59	9.4	18.18	9.3
29 Thur	06.34	9.5	18.54	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Godfrey's mission to help Haiti inspired by words of St Luke



Godfrey with his wife Barbara. He is hoping for another great turn-out at the West End Club, Barry, for the next Haiti fund-raising evening on December 1.

A Barry man, who is organising his fourth event in support of the people of Haiti, said he has been inspired by a verse from St Luke which says: "To whom much has been given, much is expected."

At 8.30pm on December 1, the West End Club in Barry will throw open its doors for an evening of entertainment, but with a serious purpose behind it – helping the people of Haiti who are suffering from the scourge of cholera.

Godfrey Knight (67) a former painter and decorator, explained: "This is the fourth event that has been organised in the last 15 months and is for

by TIM CHAPMAN

the Haiti Cholera Appeal.

"Dansette, a seven piece band, and Zumba Dancers, will be performing free of charge."

The 2010 earthquake led to a damaged health and sanitation infrastructure in Haiti, enabling the epidemic to spread quickly.

Godfrey said: "Over 7,000 people have died of cholera in Haiti and 200,000 people have been infected."

"I work as an advocate for a charity called Compassion and it supplies filtration units to the people who need them. Each unit costs around £20."

Godfrey, who works as a caretaker at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, said he read an article about Frank McKinney, an expert in real estate, who founded projects to help house the poor, and followed St Luke's maxim that those who have a lot in life should help those who have less.

Godfrey took that ethos on board in his support for the people of Haiti.

"I've decided that doing around four events a year is about right – any more and it would be too much."

"Thanks to publicity in The GEM we have had a good response."

"Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and it is estimated it will take the country 20 years to restructure following the earthquake."

Godfrey added that if people in distress are given the right help "they will flourish".

Tickets are £5 on the door or from Godfrey on 01446 749727.

'Are Barry's historic clocks out of time?'

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

BARRY'S two historic clocks – at the Dock Office and the town hall – don't show the right time.

That's the claim of Mr Mick Smith, a postman in the town for 26 years, who lives in Dock View Road.

He explained: "We have two very historic and important buildings in Barry that are spoilt by stupid things."

"The Barry Docks Office was rebuilt after a massive fire many years ago. It cost a lot of money to restore but was great when it was done."

"Barry Town Hall on King Square was renovated with loads of money spent on it, so can somebody tell me why on earth at these iconic buildings, the clocks don't work correctly?"

"The Dock Office clock is four minutes fast but chimes on time."

"The town hall clock is never correct. Surely, it can't be hard to make sure they run on time?"

Mr Smith says when he is at home he sometimes hears them chime at different times – and can get accurate times from the TV as a comparison.



A spokeswoman for the Vale Council explained: "We have an annual service contract in place that provides a yearly visit to both the town hall and Dock Offices clocks. This is undertaken by a specialist contractor who advised us that many old clocks are indifferent timekeepers, hence the difference between the two clocks themselves."

Simon has realised a dream with true (Barry Island) brew

A LOCAL man has immortalised Barry Island by naming a new beer after it!

Simon Martin, who has built up a huge following as a beer reviewer on YouTube, has created his own special brew that went on sale throughout Tesco stores last week.

Simon is known to legions of YouTube followers as 'Real Ale Guide', and worked with local brewery Brains to create Barry Island IPA – and seems to have cracked the UK market.

Bill Dobson of Brains explained: "Simon, more used to reviewing beers,

turned brewer after we invited him to brew a collaboration beer in our craft brewery earlier this year."

"The result was Barry Island IPA, an American style India Pale Ale bursting with citrus aromas."

Over the past three years Simon has become a popular reviewer on YouTube, reviewing beers from all over the world.

He said: "I'm a huge Brains fan and was honoured to have been asked to brew with Bill and his team. I never dreamt that my beer would end up on the shelves of supermarkets throughout the UK."

Choir to raise the roof for NSPCC

A SPECIAL carol concert is being held on Saturday, December 1, at All Saint's Church to raise funds for the NSPCC Barry committee.

Barry residents are being invited to raise the roof at the concert, which has been organised by the Barry Male Voice Choir and will feature performances from the RAF Voluntary Band.

The concert will be held at All Saint's Church, Park Road, Barry at 2.30pm.

Gareth Roberts, choir chairman, said: "We are delighted to be able to support the NSPCC with our annual concert – it is a charity close to our hearts."

"We have a fantastic programme of carols, accompanied by the RAF voluntary band. So dig deep this year and come down and support the NSPCC."

Jo Leonard, NSPCC community fundraising manager for Barry said: "We are so grateful to the Barry Male Voice Choir for holding a concert in support of the NSPCC. It promises to be a truly festive afternoon and the perfect way to begin the build up to Christmas!"

Tickets (£4), and information on what can be done to help the NSPCC in the local area, can be obtained by contacting Jo Leonard on 01446 79540. Tickets are also available on the door.

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Electrical fault caused 'almighty bang' Shoppers escape injury as blast hits town centre

POLICE cordoned off part of Barry town centre following an explosion in Holton Road on Friday afternoon, November 16.

The drama took place not long after midday and was caused by a fault in a cable.

Ken Ball, of Park Funeral Directors, which is just yards from where the explosion occurred, said: "I heard an almighty bang - it was as if a crane had dropped a large load."



Western Power cordoned off the site and started work on the cable to make it safe.

later, I heard sirens on Holton Road at approximately 12.30pm.

An eye witness told The GEM there was a large bang and billowing smoke.

A police spokeswoman explained: "We received reports of a minor explosion attended the incident

to ensure the scene was safe and to fix the cable.

"We cordoned off the area while this was done in order to ensure public safety."

The spokeswoman added: "No one was injured during the incident."

A spokeswoman for Western Power said workers discovered a fault in an underground cable joint.

A number of local customers lost their electricity supply, but Western Power worked throughout the afternoon to rectify connections.

Bombettes change into calendar girls!

THE BOMBETTES, Barry Rugby Club's ladies' team, took to the field in high heels rather than rugby boots last week to publicise a calendar marking the club's 125th anniversary.

Spokeswoman Sarah Rees Brown explained: "The Bombettes decided to make 2013 a year to remember by creating their own unique calendar which can be purchased at Barry Rugby

Club. The girls all donned gowns and high heels on a crisp winter's day to bring some glamour to the surroundings.

"The captain Rebecca Boffy was on hand to guide the girls onto the pitch in their heels even though the pitch was a mudbath and heels and rugby don't really mix!"

"It all made for some hysterical pictures."

"Money made from the calendar will go towards keeping the

Bombettes running strongly.

"All the girls had a fantastic day and would like to thank the photographers Andy Wicks and Christopher Hughson, and Nigel Boffy, Frank Greig, Andy Moffat and Carol Jones for their help on the day too."

If local women would like to try women's rugby the Bombettes hold training sessions on Thursday evenings at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School at 7.45pm.

Blue Badge plea for parents

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In 2010, following a consultation, the Welsh Government allowed families with children under three to have blue badges if the youngsters were dependent on bulky equipment, or might need urgent access to emergency medical treatment.

But the scheme wasn't extended to families with youngsters with learning difficulties who use pushchairs because some locations have 'mother and child bays'.

Mr Cairns took up the case and told The GEM: "Having received clarification of the guidelines set down by the Welsh Government regarding the criteria for issuing a Blue Badge for very young children who suffer from disability or medical conditions, I was really surprised many would not be eligible for the badge scheme."

"We're all familiar with parent and baby parking spaces that are available at supermarkets - similar to disabled

parking space provision. "However, this simply is not the case when parents visit their local high street or village shopping areas."

"Though there may be on-street disabled parking bays near our independent shops or post offices and chemists, I have yet to see a similar parent and baby allocation."

"The Welsh Government has failed to take this into account during their consultation, and I would urge them to revisit the

guidelines and policy regarding this issue."

"I have asked the Minister to consider the disparity and hope that he will accept that coping with a disabled child under three can be at least as challenging as an older disabled child."

The GEM approached the Welsh Government which confirmed it would look at the situation facing families with toddlers.

A spokesperson said: "We will look at the case for including children under the age of three with autism and severe learning difficulties as part of the wider work on extending eligibility."

"We are currently collecting evidence on the specific barriers faced by people with severe learning difficulties and autism and will need to consider the findings from this work before making any decisions on the way forward."

Witnesses sought following assault

POLICE in the Vale are appealing for witnesses, following an assault on Barry Road on Friday, November 9, when a 26-year-old man suffered a fractured jaw.

The incident occurred at approximately 12.40pm outside the post office on Barry Road.

The police say the 26-year-old man sustained a serious fracture of the jaw as a result of an assault by two men.

A 19-year-old man and a 43-year-

old man have been arrested in connection with the incident and released on Barry Road on Friday, on police bail pending further enquiries.

Officers wish to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the assault, as part of their ongoing investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Barry CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Council responds to the flooding lane issue in Rhoose with statement

LAST week (November 15), The GEM reported on a Rhoose resident's concerns over a lane in between Castle Road and Torbay Terrace that has continually flooded, causing damage to gardens and garages.

At the time of going to press, The GEM had not received a response from the Vale Council, which has been received since.

Miles Punter, director of visible services and housing, said: "A recent check of the land registry records has shown that the lane in question is not in the council's ownership, neither is it part of the adopted highway net-

work. It is, therefore, likely that the lane falls within the definition of a 'private street', as defined in the Highways Act 1980. A 'private street' is a street that is not maintained at public expense.

"This means that the council is not under any obligation to repair the street, even though the public may have a right to use it."

"Under the 'private street works code', set out in s.205-218 of the Highways Act, the council does have powers to carry out certain repairs, with the owners of the properties 'fronting' the street being responsible for paying the costs of these repairs."

"In addition, under s.230 of the Highways Act, the council can require frontagers to carry

out urgent repairs 'needed to obviate danger to traffic', and the authority could also act in default (if the required works are not undertaken), recovering the cost from the frontagers."

"This is a fairly common situation for lanes that are unadopted and where the land title is not registered."

"We are aware of the condition of this particular lane, but due to the fact that it is mostly used by those whose properties 'front' it, and it is not currently dangerous, we have no plans at this stage to invoke our powers to undertake any repairs or maintenance."

Choir looks forward to a charitable December

THE Barry Male Voice Choir is having a very busy 110th anniversary year.

Its recent anniversary concert held at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church was enjoyed by a large audience of old and new supporters.

Musical director, Dorothy Connell, and accompanist Emma Arscott's thorough preparations ensured a disciplined and expressive performance from the choir.

The varied programme of subtle harmonies, rousing choruses and stirring Welsh hymns was complemented by soprano soloist Eleanor Stowe, presently studying at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Eleanor also features in a CD recently made by the choir which as yet is not on sale.

A busy Christmas period lies ahead of the choir, the highlight of which is the annual Christmas concert at All Saints Church, Barry, on Saturday, December 1 at 2.30pm.

The concert, as is now customary, will also feature the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band. Tickets are £4 (children free), and are available from choristers or at the door.

Proceeds will be donated to the NSPCC, a charity which remains overwhelmed by the demands for its services.

A spokesperson said: "It's difficult to believe that so many children continue to suffer abuse today."

The choir, band and congregation can look forward to a truly joyous Christmas occasion in aid of a very good cause.

A further charity concert will be held at Wetherspoons Sir Samuel Romilly at 7pm on Monday, December 10 in aid of CLIC SARGENT. The choir will also be performing for charity at Tesco, Barry, at lunchtime on Saturday, December 15.

New choir members are very welcome, an interest in music being the only qualification.

The choir restarts practice at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, on Monday, January 7 at 7.30pm. For further details, see: www.barry-malevoicechoir.co.uk, or telephone 01446 402398.

All proceeds to the Haiti Cholera Appeal fund via the charity Compassion.

Successful celebration of London Olympics

BARRY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

THE AGM of the society was held at their headquarters on October 30.

The election of the committee resulted in the re-election of the chairman, Mr Glyn Jones; the treasurer, Mr Steve Trehearn and the shack manager, Mr Phil King.

The society operated the flagship radio station, call sign 2012W, representing amateur radio in Wales in celebration of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over the seven-week period, between 19,000 and 20,000 contacts were made with amateur radio operators throughout the world, including a huge but indeterminate number of short wave listeners; an achievement of which we are very proud.

The society hopes that its activities will have raised awareness of the beauty of the Vale and its coastline.

Please go to our Olympic website: www.2012w.com for more information.

It is hoped that we have attracted the interest of those who visited the station at Barry Island, and we wish to extend a warm welcome to all who would like to attend our weekly meetings which are held on Tuesdays at 7.30pm at the society's headquarters at Sully Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully. **JB**

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Plenty on offer at Sanctuary



ABOVE: Michelle of Sanctuary Gifts, 31 High Street, Barry, has an array of Christmas gifts, including personalised plaques made to order.



ABOVE: Pupils pay their respects.

LOCAL PUPILS SHOW THEY REMEMBER...

ON Monday, November 12, children and staff at Barry's Gladstone Primary School held a very moving Remembrance service in school, ending with a two-minute silence at 11am.

As a mark of respect, the youngest children in school, the nursery children, made poppies to surround the Gladstone memorial plaque and the oldest children, year-6, laid poppy wreaths in

front of this very special stone, which honours past pupils who lost their lives during the Great War.

Lifeboat shop

THE Lifeboat Station Souvenir Shop at the Esplanade in Penarth is open from 2pm-4.30pm on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday until December 18.

Christmas cards, calendars and diaries are on sale.

Men's Forum sees Changes in the Vale

ON Thursday last, the guest speaker, John Wilmot from Penarth, spoke on 'Changes in the Vale', which consisted of a great many really good pictures of the Cardiff/Penarth/Barry area from 1950-2005.

Most of that time, John was working at the centre of things as a shift control engineer with British Gas and his viewpoint from Belmont House in Churchill Way gave him bags of opportunities to record the massive changes which occurred.

The story started with pictures like the Toll Bridge on the Penarth Road in 1950 to demonstrate the 'before and after', infantry landing

craft moored in Penarth dock just before 'D' day, and the Royal Naval Ships HMS Tuscan, Teaser and Locky, which were modernised in Cardiff's Mount Stuart Dock.

The bulk of the show was the gradual changes being made in the area from the massive works including bridges for services and traffic over Penarth Road and the River Ely for the M4 Link, the redevelopment of Cardiff Bay, including the barrage, the building of the new magistrates courts in Adamsdown, the renewal of Penarth and Barry Docks.

John showed over 60 images; some now of historical interest, but most to remind us of the scale of the physical changes which have taken place locally. Next week,

November 29, Don Llewellyn will be talking about 'The William Evans Papers'. New members are very welcome to the meetings held at Windsor Road United Reformed Church Hall, every Thursday at 10.15am.

For further information, contact Peter Westcott on 02920 594881. PMW

CLEANING UP THE BEACHES

WITH reference to recent letters in The GEM about Friends of Barry Beaches, I am glad that Coun Rob Curtis does not restrict his energies just to his elected ward.

FOBB volunteers come from different areas of Barry and some even come from Cardiff, having lived in Barry previously and love the beaches. We are also council taxpayers.

We agree that council employees do a good job on Barry Island beach itself, but we concentrate our efforts on the headlands.

I personally organised a sponsored walk and raised £1,500 for cancer, so volunteers don't need to be told what to do. By removing litter, the world will be a cleaner place.

(Name and address supplied by the letter writer)

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'Horses trampling our gardens' – Rhoose residents complain

A RESIDENT in Rhoose is calling for a group of horses "struggling" behind her home to be moved, claiming they had trampled gardens looking for food.

Dorothy Taylor, who has lived in Church Road for 47 years, told The GEM that the horses have been in a field behind her home for months, and now residents would like them moved.

She explained: "There are 40 to 60 horses in the field behind us, and they were in the garden throughout the night. I could hear them."

"They climbed over the fences, uprooted a tree, ate my gooseberry bush, all my strawberries, mint and rhubarb and broke my lights."

"They wouldn't come in here if they had something to eat. It's pitiful to see them struggling."

"But you can't blame the horses. It's not their fault."

Another life-long Rhoose resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said that residents wanted the horses moved for their own safety and that of the residents, but nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

He told The GEM: "You ring the RSPCA but they ignore you. It's the police's responsibility to keep the residents safe, and it is also the council's responsibility to repair the fences. What if one of the horses had kicked Dorothy?"

"The police push you to the council and the council push you to the police."

"We've reported it at different times, but nothing has been done. Some appear to be trapped (between some broken fencing and trees) but they won't move until they starve."

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "Officers visited the area on Friday afternoon, where there was evidence that horses had got out of the field."

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS



"The gardens in which the horses were searching for food seemed very cluttered; however, officers could see no sign of any damage to fences."

"The horses were directed back into the field. The equines seemed to be in good condition; but we will monitor the welfare condition during the coming months."

"It is believed that these horses are in the fields with the agreement of the landowner; as such, we cannot consider these animals to be abandoned."

"Any dispute with the condition of the boundary fence should be resolved between the landowner and property owner."

A spokesperson for the RSPCA said they couldn't trace any calls received from residents at Church Road, Rhoose: "But our general advice with regard to loose horses is that people need to contact the police or local authority."



ABOVE: Some of the horses currently residing in the field behind the properties on Castle Road.



LEFT: The horses have roamed gardens in search of food.



PICTURED: Coun Mike Pritchard, chair of Michaelston Council and Coun Val Hartrey, chair of Dinas Powys Community Council at the laying of the wreaths on Remembrance Day.

Dinas Powys rallies for Remembrance

THERE was standing room only at St Peter's Church Dinas Powys for the Remembrance Day service.

The Legion members supported by Dinas Powys Community Council, Michaelston Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and a capacity congregation at the service, heard the names of the significant number of local men killed in action in both world wars.

Earlier, wreaths had been laid at the memorial in the centre of the

community by a wide range of organisations led by the Legion.

Coun Val Hartrey represented Dinas Powys and Coun Mike Pritchard represented Michaelston. The Vale wreath was laid by Coun Chris Franks.

Political parties, the churches and chapels, St Cyres School, voluntary groups, Scouts, Guides Brownies and sports clubs were all present.

The march from the memorial to St Peter's was led by the Scouts band, much to the delight of the public.

AM welcomes 'Cafe No 5'

VALE AM, Jane Hutt, attended the official opening of Café No 5 at 5 High Street, Barry, with Mike Shanahan, a trustee of ValePlus.

With financial support from Dow Corning and npower, the new cafe in Barry's High Street is run by the young people who benefit from ValePlus.

Jane Hutt said: "ValePlus is a unique organisation, providing meaningful opportunities, skills and training for its members – who also run the NOVA charity shop and community business on High Street."

"This new cafe on High Street extends these opportunities, providing catering, cooking and hospitality skills for the young people who benefit from the ValePlus service."

"Without the support of businesses like Dow Corning and npower, as well as hardworking volunteers and staff, this new venture would not have opened so quickly to provide such a fantastic venue for the busy thriving High Street in Barry. Just in time for the Christmas lights festivities on November 23!"

Youngsters' raise £347 funds with nursery rhymes

BARRY children at the new Bethel Playgroup recently took part in a sponsored nursery rhyme time, and every child was awarded a special fundraising certificate and stickers.

They raised an amazing £347 for a new storage unit for toys and equipment.

Karen and her team would like to thank all the parents once again for their continued support.



A little fundraiser.

Contact the playgroup leader, on 07757649062, or email karen.kiddewinkles@talktalk.net

Gymnast Olivia gets Bryl result at top coach awards

BARRY girl Olivia Bryl, a highly-thought-of gymnastics coach, was named the UK's young coach of the year at an awards ceremony in London on Tuesday night (November 20).

Bryl took the Heather Crouch Young Coach of the Year award at the sports coach UK (scUK)-hosted event.

The 24-year-old began gymnastics aged four-and-a-half and went on to compete internationally in the Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

Now a talent development coach for the women's artistic programme in Wales with Welsh Gymnastics, in the last year alone she has developed an innovative coach and gymnast identification pro-



Barry girl Olivia Bryl picked up the Heather Crouch Young coach of the Year award in London.

gramme, selecting gymnasts from schools and clubs to progress in to development squads.

She was also selected as a judge at the London 2012 Olympic trials and coached a squad of nine and 10-year-olds to British titles.

Bryl is also one of the world's youngest international judges, and

in the past year has taken three squads of young gymnasts to overseas training camps, giving the youngsters valuable competition experience as well as picking up techniques she can share in Wales.

After receiving her award from Princess Anne, she beamed: "It feels great to win, I really didn't expect it. To be here with so many top coaches and athletes and given an award for a job you love is a great honour."

"I've got a real passion for Welsh gymnastics and I just try and do my best for all the gymnasts I work with. But in reality it's all about a team of coaches and other people who all work together. If it wasn't for the whole team then I wouldn't be winning awards like this."

"I just hope to keep improving and working hard as a coach."

End of the beginning for PIPS students!

POSITIVE Image Photographic Society (PIPS) is coming to the end of part one of the beginners' course for manipulating images by using Photoshop.

Having worked hard to learn how to use the tools, it was decided to look at the finished product, giving Guy, our guru, a rest from teaching. It was the turn of Bernard, who also doubles up as 'teaboy' on Guy's 'tween nights' to show a series of images depicting the original picture, followed by the

same image after manipulation, with, where necessary, an explanation on the procedures used to make the alterations.

This was followed by a brief introduction to 3-D photography, viewing the 3-D images through red/cyan specs, then trying out the free viewing method of crossing the eyes to look at right and left prints, and if successful, to enjoy the thrill of seeing the image 'come alive' in full colour 3-D.

This week, Guy continues with teaching his PIPS students more about the art of photo

manipulation.

If what we do interests you, contact us for information on our activities. You will be welcome to join us for three meetings to see if you like what we have on offer. Membership is £15 for the season, £7.50 for the remainder of season.

We meet at St Baruc's Hall, Phyllis Street, on Barry Island, 7.30pm on Thursdays (until the end of April). Contact Guy on 01446 751389 or Bernard on 01446 408483 for information. BB

Table top sale in Castleland

THERE will be a table top sale on Saturday December 1, from 12 noon-4pm, at the Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Tables are £5 each (to be booked in advance). Contact Julie (centre manager) for details on 01446 701285. The community cafe will be open for refreshments.

Festive fayre for Friends and Neighbours'

FRIENDS and Neighbours are holding a Christmas fayre at The Senior Health Shop this Saturday (November 24).

Admission is free and there will be a wide range of stalls including preserves, tombola, 'prize every time', and cakes.

Jane Hutt AM will open the fayre at 10am.

Refreshments will be available and a raffle will be drawn on the day.

All proceeds go towards the Friends and Neighbours' Christmas party and a visit to the New Theatre pantomime.

For further details, contact Gay Fifield on 01446 400044.

Positive action and calls to put BBC expenditure under closer scrutiny

EARLIER this week, I presented a Bill in Parliament to introduce a new law which would force the BBC to publish its expenditure records and to open itself to unrestricted auditing.

Prior to the resignation of the corporation's Director General George Entwistle, over a Newsnight broadcast on child abuse allegations, I had secured time for what is known as a Ten Minute Bill on November 21, to introduce the law calling on the BBC to publish all invoices over £500.

This would fall in line with the requirement that local authorities are now bound to provide this information and, would give the National Audit Office unrestricted access.

I am a strong supporter of the BBC, and although the recent events have been inexcusable, we shouldn't lose the wider perspective of the positive influence of the organisation.

However, loyal supporters should not seek to hold back in proposing improvements. Greater transparency encourages more efficient spending and questions have been raised for some time on how the BBC spends its money.

Local constituents have asked how much money is spent on after-show parties; why the BBC advertises and how much it costs; and how much it pays to some of its presenters?

Gaining responses to these questions is not straightforward. That is why I



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

tabled this Bill earlier this year.

Previously, I wrote to the then Director General of the BBC, Mark Thompson, to ask that they publish all invoices over £500 to improve transparency in its spend, given the publicly-funded nature of the organisation. This request was turned down twice.

I later discovered that the National Audit Office can only investigate areas of spend with the BBC Trust's agreement.

This is extraordinary and to underline the importance of this, they have no immediate right to investigate the controversial pay-off to the recently-departed Director General, George Entwistle. Surely, we should have the same

transparency for expenditure across all public organisations?

In credit to the last Vale Council administration, they volunteered to publish their invoices over £500 and I hope that the new administration will continue on this basis.

I am told that this has made all officers think long and hard before commissioning services.

This new law would hold the BBC to the same scrutiny as other public bodies. I hope it will level the disparity between the demands placed on the BBC and local authorities.

In proposing this BBC Bill, I hope it will highlight to Parliament an important issue and an area that I trust the BBC will then start to respond to.

The BBC is clearly responding as quickly as possible to the awful situation regarding the victims of sexual abuse. As a global British institution, it is vital that it now focuses on restoring its credibility.

As part of this, the BBC Trust, which oversees the organisation, acted swiftly to ensure that its management and leadership issues were resolved quickly.

This will allow for the BBC to put the systems in place to ensure it can continue to make first class news and current affairs programmes, without falling into some of the traps it has done over the past few weeks.

The BBC acts as the cornerstone of UK public service broadcasting and must face the same scrutiny as any other public organisation – from financial information transparency, to examination of its culture and practices.

Town councillor raises issue of mayor's car, but Vale Council explains... 'An employee has a right to confidentiality'

SO the Vale Council has now bought an all singing all dancing super-doooper Skoda, to replace the mayor's Jaguar that was written off in a supermarket car park back in September.

The last limo, which was in excellent condition, was disposed of after hitting a bollard at Morrison's car park in Barry.

However, we the taxpayers who paid for that Jag are still being kept in the dark as to how this accident actually happened.

If I remember rightly, the ruling Labour group promised to be open and transparent prior to the last council elections – so why can't they tell us?

We as taxpayers owned that vehicle, so we surely have the right to know what has happened.

Coun Robert Bertin, Barry Town Council.

• The GEM put Coun Bertin's comments to the Vale Council:

Bev Noon, operational manager for cor-

porate policy and communications, said: "I understand the public's desire to know the details of matters involving the mayoral car."

"However, as an employer, we have a duty of care to our employees, and their personal and confidential issues cannot be aired in public."

"We are unable to release personal information to the public."

"If we did, the council would be subject to a hefty fine under Data Protection law by the Information Commissioner."

"I am sure that the Vale public wouldn't want council resources wasted in this way to

satisfy the desire for gossip."

"This council has excellent employment practices, having a good relationship with both unions and our employees, and we will not move away from these practices."

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, explained: "When a staff issue is investigated by an employer, the member of staff has a right to expect confidentiality from their employer."

"The council is committed to transparency but obviously there are times when it is not right for the council to share personal details with the public. This is one of those times."

GEM LETTERS EXTRA...GEM LETTERS

LDP: 'A plan with two tales'

IN the past few months, letters to The GEM have been telling two opposing tales about what is happening about the Local Development Plan.

One tale, from the Labour-led Vale Council, was that Labour disagreed with a flawed LDP; promised to scrap it and replace it; has considered how this can best be done; and has

now started the process to carry out replacement of the LDP.

The second tale, from Conservative AMs and MP and other opposition politicians, has been about cynical election manipulation by Labour, a broken election promise, and most recently, an about-face to scrap the LDP after all, because of letters by Conservatives to local papers.

The second tale is an unlikely story driven by

wishful thinking and the most unlikely part is that the Labour-led Vale Council was 'embarrassed' into scrapping the LDP because of letters to The GEM.

How can anyone be embarrassed by being entirely consistent about their intentions from start to finish, and carrying out their intention as stated? The first tale is straightforward and follows words with deeds.

The Conservatives and others have tried to

make political capital during the (relatively short) period since the election when a complex change was being considered.

They have done a disservice to residents of the Vale by putting out misleading information

for which they had no evidence.

They should apologise for getting it so wrong and so publicly, now it's apparent we are going to do just what we said we would do.

John Drysdale, Barry, Iltyd Ward councillor.

The public are just 'cash cows'

A RECENT article in the national media highlights the fact that the public are being treated as cash cows yet again.

From the £75 penalty people receive for littering, XF0R receive at least £35 and the rest goes into town hall coffers, which is legal under the Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.

However, it appears that this contractor employed by the council is penalising people for the most trivial acts of littering.

A lady in Blaenau Gwent was fined £75 for dropping a thread from her gloves accidentally, and others fined whilst in the process of picking up what they had accidentally dropped.

This is ludicrous: XF0R has pocketed

£1.6m in Wales and England in pursuit of their cash cows (the public).

The more serious offences of fly tipping and dog fouling (which is unsightly, smelly and a health risk to everyone) are apparently not being pursued.

I understood when the Vale Council employed XF0R earlier this year by the then council leader that dog fouling was a priority.

This is not the case, the percentage of fines issued for this disgusting act is very minimal.

In fact, I would like to see a breakdown of fines given and for what?

There was a time many years ago when councillors worked for and with their electorate, not treat them as revenue cash cows.

Ian Govier, Rhooose.

Local MP welcomes latest jobs figures

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the latest fall in Vale unemployment, shown in figures published last month by the Office for National Statistics.

The number of unemployed claimants in the Vale of Glamorgan constituency in October was 2,353, 179 lower than in October 2011, and 27 lower than in September this year.

Mr Cairns said: "This is great news for Wales. There are 13,000 more people in work, with thousands fewer unemployed as well."

"In my constituency, too, the claimant count has come down, which is fantastic news."

"This is really positive for us locally and does show that although the economic climate is still tough, there is cause for gentle optimism."

"We need to use this momentum and do everything we can to get more people back to work."

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Barry man is honoured with an MBE

HAVING heard in June that he was to be awarded the MBE for his services to the army and for his role as a community First Responder, Captain Glenn Hall, from Barry, has now received his medal from the Princess Royal at Windsor Castle.

Originally from Newton Abbot in Devon, Glenn joined the army at the age of 16 and worked his way through the ranks.

He spent his 18th birthday in the middle of a riot on the Falls Road in Belfast, and served in Iraq during the first and second Gulf Wars.

During his service, he has spent time on duties in Belize, The Falkland Islands, Canada, Germany and on a United Nations tour of duty in Cyprus.

"In 2006, I left the regular army to take up my present job as Regimental Operations Support Officer with the Welsh Transport Regiment Royal Logistic Corps at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff," said the 52-year-old grandfather of two.

"It was a wonderful experience to be recognised by Her Majesty



Captain Glenn Hall with his MBE

The Queen, but to also receive the MBE from The Princess Royal, who is the Colonel in Chief of the Royal Logistic Corps, was icing on the cake.

"I'm proud of my work and my army career, and however difficult my current job is, I'd rather that I was doing it than anyone else.

"A large part of my current duties is to inform families of the injury to, or the tragic loss of a son or daughter, mother or father while on active service. It's a difficult job, but someone has to do it.

"There's many a time when I've been pushed out the door by a grieving parent or partner and I just stand there until the door opens again and I'm able to offer my support and comfort.

"So to be recognised for that part of my work is a great honour.

"The MBE is also in recognition of my work as a Community First Responder (CFR) in Barry."

"The day I received the MBE was a very special and proud day in my life, and I feel as if I've received the MBE on behalf of many of my colleagues, both in the armed services and as CFRs."

First Responder officer Tony Rossetti added: "We are delighted at the Welsh Ambulance Service that Glenn has been recognised in this way for his services not only to the Armed Forces, but for his community work."

Penarth Ramblers trace the Taff's industrial heritage

RECENTLY, Ramblers joined leader Geraint and sheepdog Patch for a trip to the Darran Valley, and early rainfall cleared to leave a cool but dry day.

From Parc Cwm Darran, the group headed down past the lake before climbing along forestry paths, some boggy in places, to open moorland high above the village of Deri, tucked into the wooded valley below.

Climbing through woods, the group reached the Tegernac memorial stone and the ancient Capel-y-Brithdir on the ridge-way, before joining part of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk, where a series of lovely old green lanes led them

downhill. Then, climbing the opposite side of the valley by field and track, they reached open moorland, passing rocky outcrops at Gelligaer Common, where they enjoyed good views of the Brecon Beacons before descending grassy slopes back to their start.

The following day, the glorious sunshine prompted 16 walkers to join Krys and Pam on a local walk at Radyr, beginning from the railway station, first opened in 1863.

Making their way through Radyr Woods they passed Damescourt estate, and paused for two minutes to honour those who had lost their lives during conflict, as it was Remembrance Sunday.

Joining the path beside the River Taff, they continued downstream to Hailey Park, visiting the Melingriffith Pump en route.

In 1749, the tinplate works was built nearby on the site of an old cornmill and it became the largest employer of local workers, and the mills were powered by water drawn from the River Taff down the Melingriffith feeder stream, a water course that doubled as a canal, carrying raw iron ore from the Pentrich Ironworks.

Moving on, they tramped beside the remains of the old Glamorgan Canal, which was used to

transport goods from the iron (and later the coal) industry at Merthyr, but is now a quiet haven for wildlife.

Re-joining the Taff Trail, the group continued on past Radyr Weir, built in 1774 as part of the feeder system to the tinplate works, before crossing a footbridge to make their way back to their start.

DIARY DATES
On November 24, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 8.5-mile moderate walk taking in Castell Coch and Caerphilly Common; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156 or Rachel on 01446 410545.

On November 25, meet at 9am in Redbrink Crescent (above Jackson's Bay) Barry Island, for an 11-mile moderate walk across three beaches to Rhosoe Point and back via Porthkerry Park; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto

www.penarthramblers.worpress.com Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

JOY STRANGWARD

NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

'Don't be idle in copying those files!'

AS a club, we bang on a lot about taking care of our files.

As I write, the next meeting will be devoted to the subject and will be over by the time you read this. Reporting on that meeting might be the last on the topic for a while.

The trouble with the whole backing-up business is the time and effort it can take, but we keep assuring everyone that if losing files bothers you, the effort will be worthwhile.

Like many who freely offer good advice, I have to remind myself that I should follow it as well – and, yes, I fall by the wayside from time to time.

My files won't vanish into thin air, but I am still a bit idle about systematic storage of the copies I make. The result is that I am confident that I have the file I am looking for; it may be hard to find.

Is it on my desktop; my laptop; one of the several external drives, my mini-drive or a memory stick?

A while ago I bought myself a gizmo that will hold all my files and automatically arrange them across multiple drives so that if one, or even two, drives should crash, by simply replacing the damaged drives with new ones the whole system will restore itself with no effort by me.

That's fine, but it will only perform once I have completed the work to set it all up in the first place.

Meanwhile, the number of files is steadily increasing and spreading across more categories and over a longer period. The task is growing

and must be tackled before it becomes simply too difficult to do. So I have been exploring systems for organising them (and myself).

There is no shortage of advice on the web. Lots of people delight in writing how they organise their stuff.

Sadly, their needs do not match mine, but I can clearly see the organisational approach to take and I'm pursuing it.

There is one saving grace to my procrastination. Files are getting bigger – cameras now generate bigger files for better digital pictures – and mobile phones and tablets add to the number taken.

Thankfully, this is more than balanced by the reduction in the cost of storage capacity.

In 2004, the cost of storing 1GB on an 80GB external hard drive was about 60p. A 1GB flash drive was then new technology costing you £100.

In 2012, a networked 3TB drive can cost as little as £130, bringing the cost per GB down from 60p to 4p. A big flash drive is now £67 for 128GB bringing the cost per GB down from £100 in 2004 to 52p, as do the 8GB and 16GB flash drives.

If only other things would follow suit.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 27, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. 7.30pm for 8pm. It will be a Brains Trust with questions and (maybe) some answers as well. See penarth-computerclub.co.uk.

HD

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES (BARRY) (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NO2) 2012

1. On the 12th November 2012 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 26th November 2012 or on the date the necessary signs are removed, whichever is the later.

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 26th November 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Various Locations, Barry) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (No.1) Order 2006.

In the schedule remove the following paragraph:

Pyke Street, Barry

On its south-western side from a point approximately 54 metres north-west of its junction with the north-western side of Crossways Street, north-westwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Various Locations, Vale of Glamorgan) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (No.1) Order 2006.

In the Schedule remove the following paragraph:

Maes-y-Cwm Street, Barry

On its southeastern side from a point approximately 93 metres north-east of its junction with the northeastern side of Ty-Newydd Road, north-eastwards for a distance of 6.6 metres.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2012.

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 GORCHYMYN (DIWYGIO) (2) YNGLYN MANNAU PARCIO I BOBL ANABL (Y BARRI)

1. Ar 12 Tachwedd 2012, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob p. er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r dibenion cyffredinol a nodwyd isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 26 Tachwedd 2012, neu pan fydd yr arwyddion angenrheidiol wedi'u symud, pa un bynnag fo'r dyddiad diweddara.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos y manau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b. er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferfynau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 26 Tachwedd 2012 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Diwygier y Gorchymynion Rheoli Traffig hyn fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Lleoliadau Amrywiol yn Y Barri) (1) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2006.

Yn yr Atodlen, dileer y paragraff canlynol:

Pyke Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-orllewinol o fan sydd oddeutu 54 metr i'r gogledd orllewin o'i chyffordd ag ochr ogledd-orllewinol Crossways Street, am 6.6 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin.

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Lleoliadau Amrywiol yn Y Barri) (1) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2006.

Yn yr Atodlen, dileer y paragraff canlynol:

Maes-y-Cwm Street, Y Barri

Ar ei hochr dde-ddwyrainol o fan sydd oddeutu 93 metr i'r gogledd ddwyrain o'i chyffordd ag ochr ogledd-ddwyrainol T. Newydd Road, am 6.6 metr i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain.

Dyddiedig 22 Tachwedd 2012

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenvoe. CF5 6AA.



Kiddiewinkles fundraiser to help improve equipment

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup of Crossway and Bethel Baptist churches, both in Barry, would like to invite parents, staff and friends of both playgroups (past, present and future) to a fundraising evening at Market Street Social Club, Barry on Saturday, December 1.

Tickets (£3) on sale now, including a strip of raffle tickets, party food and DJ. We are hoping to raise funds to help us provide the children at our new playgroup at Bethel Baptist Church with much-needed sup-

plies and equipment, and to replenish art and craft supplies and a new storage unit at our Crossway group.

Both groups care for children within our community aged between two and five years of age and gives them a wonderful stepping stone into more formal education.

Tickets can be purchased directly from Market Street Social Club and from either playgroup (based at Crossway Methodist Church Hall or Bethel Baptist Church between 9am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday).

To find out more, visit: www.kiddiewinkleschildcare.com, or by calling into the groups.

JE

'INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE IS RIGHT WAY FORWARD FOR WALES'

Welsh Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

LAST week, I was involved in two very important events which demonstrated our commitment to investing in young people in Wales.

I led the Draft Budget Debate for 2013/14 in the Senedd, opening it with the message that our commitment to protecting schools, health and social services remains at the forefront of our priorities.

I also visited St Cyres School to 'cut the turf' with the Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore and Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children and young people, at an exciting ceremony to mark the start of work for the

building of the £47m Penarth Learning Community - with a £33.3m contribution from the Welsh Government.

As we gathered together with the headteachers, governors and pupils from St. Cyres School, Ashgrove School, Ysgol Er'w Delyn and Ysgol Maes Dyfan, we watched the builders and diggers at work on the vast site from which will rise the most exciting school project the contractor, Leadbitter, has ever been involved with.

The new schools will be open in two years' time - on budget and on time - I was assured by the project managers with public money for the best educational environment and facilities for our young people.

A key element of the new SEN School alongside St Cyres, will be the integration of functions such as children's services and health professionals - integrating education, health and social care.

Support for young people featured heavily in the draft Budget debate. As a result of our discussions over the past few weeks about the priorities we share with other political parties, I was able to announce that the Welsh Labour Government had reached an agreement with Plaid Cymru to provide an additional £20m next year and in 2014/15, to expand support for apprenticeships.

I said that this addi-

tional investment will build on the funding we have already allocated to support progression at all levels of apprenticeships, and specifically to support 16-24-year-olds into employment.

We have already created 4,000 job opportunities in our Jobs Growth Wales scheme to provide work and training for this age group - which has been at the sharp end of the impacts of the recession.

I was also able to confirm the uplift next year for the pupil deprivation grant, taking the total funding to £36.8m and £38.2m over the next two years. Schools across the Vale are already using this to good effect to help improve educational attainment of our most disadvantaged pupils.

With the action the UK Government is taking to cut welfare benefits, it is more important than ever that we continue to maintain the benefits we have funded in Wales that can make a difference to children's lives - such as healthy free school breakfasts, offered in so many of our Vale primary schools.

Also, access to free swimming in the school holidays in our leisure centres helps hard pressed families and provides important access to healthy lifestyles for children.

We discussed the impact of the UK Government's welfare reform programme in the budget debate, drawing attention to the Institute

of Fiscal Studies Report which estimates that the impact of the tax and benefit changes to be implemented by 2014-15 will mean that, on average, households in Wales can expect to lose 4.1 per cent of their income. This compares to a UK average loss of 3.8 per cent.

Families with children are expected to be hit hardest - the poorest households with children estimated to lose the largest proportion of their income as a result of these UK Government tax and benefit changes.

As we strive to 'put children first' in the tough decisions we make in our Welsh Government budget, we know that we have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and give all our children the best start in life.

We are doing this by protecting our budgets for schools, keeping our educational maintenance allowances, and expanding our Flying Start and apprenticeships programmes.

That is a mark of our commitment to our young people.

VWBN's 10-YEAR CELEBRATION!

THE Vale Women's Business Network held an event at The Quarter Penny Café Cowbridge, to thank their patron, Jane Hutt AM, for her 10 years of support.

She was presented with a picture created by one of the talented VWBN members. Newly-launched PhotoART, which is owned by Lorraine D'Allenger from Llanmaes, takes people's photos and then turns them into art works.

The VWBN have compiled a fun and informative programme for 2013 and welcome women to all events.



PICTURED: Lorraine D'Allenger, Jane Hutt and Margaret Everson.

'Everyone's Future' wants your ideas

'EVERYONE'S FUTURE' is a new, inter-generational partnership project between Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff & The Vale.

The project is funded by the Big Lottery until 2014, with two age equality workers aiming to tackle negative stereotyping and challenge age discrimination of younger and older people.

A spokeswoman explained: "We are in the process of setting up an 'Everyone's Future' working group, which would be made up of project staff, older people, young people, and professionals.

"This group has the opportunity to help shape the project, assist at events, spread the aim of the project and may form the catalyst for further intergenerational projects down the line.

"The meetings will be informal and everyone will have the chance to give their opinions and ideas.

The first meeting will be held on November 29 at Area 41, Holton Road, Barry at 4pm.

If you are interested and would like more information, contact Louise David, Age Equality Worker (Young People) via email: louise@vibeexperience.com or call 01446 700622.

Talk on Llandow air disaster

RHOOSE and District History Society is presenting a talk by Don Llewellyn on the 1950 air disaster at Llandow.

It will be held on Friday, November 30, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets are £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16).

The committee invites those attending to a light buffet following the talk.

The Christmas Countdown Continues Week 4 of 7

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Big Wrap to help the Vale's needy

THE Vale Council has chosen 'The Big Wrap' for its annual Christmas appeal this year.

Individuals, businesses and council staff are being invited to buy an extra gift this festive season to help disadvantaged local children have a happy Christmas in 2012.

Last year, 145 children and young people received a Christmas gift and 50 food hampers were given to struggling families, thanks to the Big Wrap.

A council spokesperson said: "The idea is simple - if you can spare a few pounds, please pop an extra gift in your basket when you're doing

your Christmas shop, then drop off the gift at the Civic Offices in Barry.

"The Big Wrap is collecting Christmas gifts suitable for youngsters aged from 0-17 years, as well as food hampers. Gifts must be new and unwrapped."

Each year, The Vale Council children's services team works in partnership with Coastlands Family Church to provide presents and food hampers to young people leaving care and families in need.

If you're able to help The Big Wrap appeal, please drop off your unwrapped gift or hamper at the Civic Offices in Barry before December 7.

CCTV ARRESTS

POLICE made eight arrests and issued one ASBO referral in the Vale of Glamorgan last week, following information provided by the Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team.

The police were contacted a total of 58 times by CCTV operators during the week ending November 18.

Great local inspiring people with a story

Marco Zeraschi
Ice cream to the stars

Paul Robane
Celebrating live music

The story of
Barry Town
Supporters Club

Hilary Brown
Jamaican Reggae
Into Barry

Claire Scantlebury
Tapping the world's greatest thinkers

Anthony Hopkins
Taking a butchers around the world

Speaker - to be announced soon

7 Barry people - each speak for 7 minutes - sharing their stories on what they are doing to change their world.

Want to see Barry yet better?

The event will also mark the launch of the Barry Ideasbank - by the Flexible Thinking Forum. A new way for sharing your ideas to make a difference to your community.

at the Glamorgan Suite, Memorial Hall, Barry

on Monday 26th November 2012

Doors open 6.30pm Talks start 7.00pm

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FREE ENTRY

First non-smoking playground now open in Iolo Park, Barry



ABOVE: The Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, and his wife, with children celebrating Iolo Park playground becoming a smoke-free zone.

THE Vale Council and the Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team have launched the first smoke-free playground in Cardiff and the Vale.

As part of the Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales 2012, the Welsh Government and ASH Wales are encouraging local authorities to promote smoke-free playgrounds to protect children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

As a result, Iolo Park in Barry has become the first playground to take part in the scheme, with the aim of rolling out smoke-free playgrounds in other areas across the Vale.

Pupils from Jenner Park Primary School were invited to take part in a competition to design a smoke-free sign for the playground.

The competition winner Melissa Hughes (10), from Jenner Park Primary School, will

have her poster displayed at the playground, alongside the ASH Wales signage.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "The council is delighted to see Iolo Park become the first designated smoke-free playground in Cardiff and the Vale."

"We also look forward to seeing this initiative rolled out to other playgrounds throughout the county and beyond."

The chief executive of ASH Wales, Elen de Lacy, said: "A recent YouGov survey showed that 79 per cent of the Welsh public now support banning smoking in playgrounds."

"We believe children and young people have a right to play and to meet their friends in a safe and clean environment, free of smoke and tobacco litter."

"Young people are also more likely to start smoking themselves if they see adults doing it in a family friendly environment."

QUESTIONS THAT ARE SLOWLY BEING ANSWERED

I WOULD like to begin by congratulating both Stephen Doughty, the new MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, and Alun Michael as the new Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

Knowing them both very well, I am confident they will do a great job and look forward to working with them.

I am pleased to announce a new initiative that I called for and that has been paid for using the savings from cutting the special responsibility allowances allocated to members of the council. This initiative will deal with the backlog of requests for disabled parking bays outside people's homes where they need help in accessing their properties.

Currently, the council only allocate 10 per year, and as there was a backlog of nearly 30 approved applications, it would have taken three years before they were all cleared.

This initiative will clear the backlog in one fell swoop, helping those people retain some independence.

I am also delighted that the traffic lights have finally been installed on the Barry Docks Link Road. The safety along this route has been a major issue of mine, my Cadoc council colleagues and others for years, and I am pleased that this delivers another of Labour's election pledges.

I would like to thank the South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) for selecting this scheme as a priority for funding, along with the Welsh Government, who provided the £600k funding to SEWTA for the project.

The future use of the land at either side of Cemetery Approach in Barry has had a question mark hanging over it for some time, and a consultation exercise was carried out to ask the people what uses they would like to see there.

The two most popular options were for an open community garden (31 per cent) and

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
**NEIL
MOORE**
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

allotments (25 per cent).

As a result, we have instructed officers to develop plans as to how these can be delivered and a report will be presented to cabinet as soon as we can.

Consultation of this kind is exactly what this new administration is committed to, and with the help of local people we are now doing something the public require.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to take part in the consultation and share their ideas with us.

We have also begun another important consultation exercise on the future of the former St Cyres School site in Dinas Powys. The 30-acre site is no longer required by the council and a new use is being sought for the site.

We would like to hear what ideas people have for the land.

The consultation ends on January 11, so let us know your views by visiting the council's website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by telephoning the council on 01446 700111. There will also be a 'drop in' session to discuss ideas or ask questions on Saturday, December 8, from 10am-2pm, at the Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys.

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'I am Eurosceptic' says MP: 'Oh no you're not!' claims UKIP councillor

LAST week, The GEM ran a story in which a Vale constituent, Mrs Jenet Lockwood, called on local MP Alun Cairns to support an in-out referendum on the European Union.

In the article, Mr Cairns described himself as "Euro-sceptic", adding that as soon as the Euro crisis had stabilised, he favoured a referendum on membership under a renegotiated settlement.

Those comments drew the following remarks from local Sully UKIP councillor, Coun Kevin Mahoney:

"I was a little surprised to read in last week's Barry GEM, November 15, of Alun Cairns' strong assertions of Euroscepticism in response to Mrs Jenet Lockwood's view that the UK should pull out of the European Union.

"Over a period of many years, having never heard so much as a peep out of Alun in regards to his supposed dissatisfaction with the EU, I took the trouble to carry out a very quick and easy check of his voting record on EU matters with the well respected 'Theyworkforyou.com' website.

"Surprise surprise, not only did Alun vote against the recent proposal to reduce the European Union's budget demands, but the website lists his overall record as Voting 'Very strongly for more EU integration'.

"Surely in this digital and internet age, Alun should have realised

that an easily available check on his voting record would very quickly expose his words on this subject?

"One can only assume that Alun Cairns has adopted his party leader David Cameron's tactic of playing to the gallery at home, whilst adopting a totally different policy whilst 'out of town' and, presumably in Alun's case, thinking his actions are out of sight also.

"Any keen observers of the EU parliament in Brussels at work will readily confirm that at the same time as the Conservative party leader pretends to talk tough about curbing EU power in the UK media, his party's MEPs in Brussels are busy voting through every bit of proposed EU legislation, as fast as they can get their hands into the air.

"Perhaps Alun might like to explain how he has arrived at his claims of being Eurosceptic whilst consistently voting in favour of greater integration into the EU."

Vale MP Alun Cairns responded: "Further to the article in last week's GEM regarding the EU and the subsequent comment from Coun Kevin Mahoney, I wanted to clarify to GEM readers my stance regarding the EU, not least as a member of the Eurosceptic Fresh Start Group in Parliament.

"I fear that Coun Mahoney is choosing a simplistic approach for his convenience, which gives an inaccurate position. I have said on the record on many occasions that I am in favour of a referendum.

"Let me be clear, I want a relationship with Europe that is primarily based on trade. I want to see us withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights, as was published in the GEM back in February this year.

"The UK Parliament should have the final say on justice and home affairs. We should take back immigration powers.

"Health and safety legislation should be a matter for the UK Government. We should repatriate social and employment legislation and we should protect Britain from financial regulation that would impact the UK more than any other economy. I could go on and on.

"I am also in favour of cutting the amount of money we pay to Europe but disagreed with the tactics of the recent motion.

"Sadly, as a result of the technical rules agreed many years ago, using a veto in the seven-year budget negotiation could lead to a vote by majority on an annual basis.

"In view of the fact that we are one of the few net contributors, we are hardly likely to win such a vote. That is an example of why the issue is more complicated than is suggested.

"Sadly, this is a coalition government, and a Conservative administration would go much further than the Lib Dems will allow – but that was the outcome of the election. Voting for any party other than Conservative, leads to a more pro-EU Government – UKIP included."

South Wales Police report fall in anti-social incidents on Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour incidents reported across the Vale and Bridgend on both Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night fell substantially this year.

According to figures from South Wales Police for the 24 hours of Hallowe'en, there were 26 ASB occurrences across Central BCU (12 in the Vale and 14 in Bridgend) this year, compared to 63 in 2011 (29 in the Vale and 34 in Bridgend).

Bonfire Night saw 17 ASB occurrences across Central BCU (eight in the Vale and nine in Bridgend), compared to 43 last year (18 in the Vale and 25 in Bridgend).

WEATHER

The police have linked the decrease to the wet weather, and to the experience, commitment, and team work from the many police officers and partnerships working together.

They revealed that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been visiting schools, shopping centres and retailers to increase

awareness among children, parents and shop workers about what they can do to ensure Hallowe'en is fun and not feared by anyone, as part of 'Operation BANG'.

Many extra officers were patrolling the streets on Hallowe'en night, targeting known anti-social behaviour hotspots to deal quickly with any disturbances.

They said that local events were also organised to keep young people off the streets and out of trouble, and schools liaison officers also gave

assembly talks to drive home the message that Hallowe'en is no excuse to misbehave.

A spokesperson said: "All the efforts paid off as, for the second year running, the number of incidents recorded has never been so low."

Superintendent Paul James, head of operations for Bridgend and the Vale, said:

"Operation BANG, the multi-agency initiative that runs over the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night period, has allowed us to ensure the safety of our communities once

again at this busy time of year. It is an apt title as BANG stands for 'Be A Nice Guy', and encourages good citizenship and responsible celebrations over the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night period.

"With incidents of anti-social behaviour more than halved compared to last year, we want to thank all of our communities for their co-operation; and remind individuals that anti-social behaviour, or any other criminal activity, will not be tolerated under any circumstances."



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Lifelong carer Tracey wins her own 'Oscar'

A HEALTH care support worker whose childhood dream was to spend her life looking after others has won a top accolade at the Wales Care Awards – considered the 'Care Oscars' – at a glittering ceremony in Cardiff.

From the age of just 10, Tracey Morgan was a volunteer helper at her local elderly persons home. Eventually, she was able to go into caring as a full-time career and it is her supreme dedication to the job that has seen her honoured.

Tracey (42), who lives in Brynna, Pontyclun, works in the Vale, Bridgend and west Wales, supporting clients – mainly children and young adults – with varying disabilities and needs.

She took bronze in 'The Peter Clarke Award for Promoting Excellence in Services for Children and Young People', sponsored by City & Guilds.

After leaving school at 16, Tracey had a number of factory jobs before landing the role she really wanted, as a



Brynna's Tracey Morgan with her 'Oscar' for the care work she provides over Bridgend, the Vale and west Wales.

care assistant at a nursing home in Porthcawl.

In 2006, she joined April Complete Care Solutions, based in Bridgend, as a support worker covering an enormous patch that often sees her driving 400 miles a week, supplying her own fuel, to travel to clients.

She sometimes works seven days a week because she finds the job so rewarding.

One young man with learning disabilities who she has looked

after for the past four years describes her quite simply as his "rock", because he has grown to depend on her so much.

Tracey, who has been married to her husband David for 19 years, said: "I had always wanted to do care work because I just love looking after people."

"I help my clients with all kinds of things from dressing to taking them on outings. I sometimes work seven days a week and drive

hundreds of miles a week to help my clients.

"Just to see a smile on their faces shows me I have helped them and is all the reward I need."

"I can't believe I have won bronze in for the Wales Care Awards. I think all carers do a good job but it is nice to be thought of in this way."

Nominating Tracey for the awards, her manager Wendy Duckworth said of her: "We received an overwhelming amount of support when mentioning this nomination to her clients and co-workers."

"They all agree that Tracey is deserving of such recognition for the tremendous job that she does."

At the presentation ceremony the winners were presented with awards by the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM.

The event was covered by BBC newsreader Lucy Owen, with entertainment from the talented mezzo-soprano, Sioned Terry.

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NEWS FROM THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Pupils put on a demo evening



Headteacher Mr McNamara took the opportunity to watch the presentations and chat to parents and carers.

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 students recently welcomed their parents/guardians and families to the annual 'pupil progress presentation evening'.

During the evening, boys made presentations to demonstrate the progress that they have made since joining the school in September. Students were asked to focus on English, Maths and a subject of their choice.

Parental involvement in learning is vital in ensuring students achieve at their highest level. As part of this school/home partnership, parents

were asked to note targets for improvement and support materials were available to make sure the whole family can join-in and make the most of the learning opportunities available.

As part of the school's drive to raise standards, the evening was fully evaluated. Here are just some of the comments from parents and carers:

"The evening was very well organised and very informative."

"I am very impressed with Joe's progress and enthusiasm to learn. Thank you."

Vale MP's support for 20mph speed limit

ALUN CAIRNS is backing a new national campaign appealing to drivers and authorities to GO 20

<http://www.go20.org>, to bring about a 2012 legacy of safe walking and cycling for all. Brake, the road safety charity, alongside a GO 20 coalition, is appealing to drivers to slow down to 20mph around homes, schools and shops. The coalition is also calling for 20mph limits to become the norm across built-up areas, so children and adults can walk and cycle for their health and enjoyment without being or feeling endangered.

Mr Cairns heard that from a survey of 506 children in Wales, by Brake and partners Brain Injury Group and Specsavers, that three in

four children said drivers need to slow down around their home and school. The children said they would be able to walk and cycle more if roads in their communities were safer.

The MP explained: "I want the Vale to be as healthy, happy, and friendly as possible for everyone who lives here, and slowing down to 20mph around schools, shops, and homes will help us to achieve that."

"It will also help us to prevent devastating casualties on our roads, which cause terrible suffering to the families affected. That's why I'm getting behind the GO 20 campaign and showing my support for Road Safety Week."

"Residents across the Vale deserve as many opportunities as possible to get active outside,

and to not be endangered while they're on foot and bicycle. I am pleased to work alongside Brake to make that a reality."

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive at Brake, added: "Anyone who drives can help bring this about: pledge to GO 20 around homes, schools and shops, even where the limit's still 30: you'll be helping to protect people around you, and you'll hardly notice the difference to your journey."

"We're also calling on more authorities to recognise the benefits of 20mph limits, and the huge demand for safe walking and cycling, and GO 20."

Anyone can pledge their support for GO 20 and safer walking and cycling at go20.org.



Protective goggles on for a quick science demonstration...



Demonstrating some ICT skills.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Garden waste collections

THE Vale Council is reminding residents that the final day this year for its fortnightly kerbside garden waste collections is November 30.

The council's ring and request service will take its place from December 3 until February 22, and residents should call the council's contact centre, Contact One Vale, on 01446 700111 to arrange for garden waste to be collected.

The kerbside collection service will resume on February 25, 2013.

'Thank you' from charity

DIXON J Dagg and Valerie Ellis would like to thank all those who supported their recent cheese and wine party in aid of the Joshua Foundation – both businesses who donated items to auction and those who attended and made contributions.

About £700 was raised on the night.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT will be at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on Monday, November 26 at 6.30pm.

COURT PACT will be at Ilminster Scout Hall on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT will be at Fairfield Primary School, Dryden Road, Penarth, on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT will be at Fairfield Primary School, Dryden Road, Penarth, on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

Readers' photographs wanted to showcase the Vale's beauty



The millstream and the mill, taken by Malcolm Nugent.

TWO readers have submitted photographs showing the beautiful sights the Vale has to offer, leading The GEM to ask other readers to continue the trend.

Porthcawl photographer Malcolm Nugent sent his photograph in after walking down the Heritage pathway.

He said: "I took this on the road down from the Plough and Harrow towards the coast, between Southerndown and the lighthouse at Nash Point."

"I had no idea that this wonderful scenery existed there. A mill-



Beautiful sunset over the garden of Philip Brown.

stream with a derelict mill, even in late autumn, makes a fab composition."

GEM reader Philip Brown also sent in a beautiful photo of the sunset over his house in Barry.

He said: "I took the picture at dusk last Saturday (November 17) as the sun was disap-

pearing with a dramatic effect, taken from my back garden in Barry."

The GEM would like to see further photographs from readers out and about, showcasing the beautiful scenery available in the Vale. Email them to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk for consideration.

St Brides goes 'pyjamas' for Children in Need!



CHILDREN at St Brides Major C/W Primary School went 'pyjamas' last Friday, in aid of Children in Need.

Everyone, including staff, came to school in their pyjamas and dressing gowns and teddies. It was a fun-packed day and the children raised a wonderful £340.

The school is holding an autumn open day today (November 22).

On Saturday, November 24, the school choir will be performing at the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 10.30am and would be delighted to have a big audience for this festive occasion.

Life at St Brides, as always, is extremely busy but lots of fun!

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Dolls House show was a great success

I am pleased to report that, once again, the Mid Glamorgan Dolls House and Miniaturists Group show in Cowbridge.

We had quite a good attendance, helped by publicity given by The GEM.

We are now able to send a cheque

to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital appeal for £1,100. This sum has been rounded up with contributions from our club.

Once again, many thanks for your help in publicising our show.

Robin Tyler,

Hon show secretary.

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Former Barrian sheds light on hero soldier's final resting place



Private Hudd's grave at the cemetery, with the poppy cross placed by Mr Elston.



Former Barrian Glyn Elston at the grave of Private Hudd at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery.

A FORMER Barrian living in The Netherlands has demonstrated the power of the internet by coming forward to The GEM regarding a recent article.

After reading the Remembrance piece by local historian Dr Jonathan Hicks in The GEM online, concerning Barry soldier, Private James Thomas Hudd ('We should remember one Barrian who fought and died for his country', November 8), killed in action on March 24, 1945, Glyn contacted the paper with these photographs.

He explained: "Reading the article on the online version of The GEM, dated 8th November, I would like to pass on these photographs of his last resting place, which I took at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery."

"The Poppy cross placed by his headstone was brought back from Barry by me on my last family visit."



ABOVE: The entrance to the cemetery.

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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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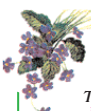


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LLANTWIT 'ON THE UP' AND EXPECTING A BUMPER CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

TRADERS in Llantwit Major are gearing up for a busy Christmas, including the customary light switch-on ceremony, as they believe the town is "on the up" - according to one who has invested in a new larger premises.

Llantwit is home to a host of stores offering a full range of special surprises for the loved ones in your life. Whether it's a unique gift for mum, a must-have accessory for the daughter, or even a home makeover for yourself, there is plenty of choice available.

The Sewing Box has recently moved to new premises on The Precinct and according to owner Stephen, it is: "To all intents and purposes a new shop - bigger, brighter and better".

Providing quality curtains and wool, their regular curtain suppliers such as Belford and Prestigious are now complemented by the likes of Sanderson and William Morris. Rowan Yarn also joins their full range of wool.

Stephen continued: "Llantwit is on the up, and that's why we invested in a new unit. We want to show our commitment to the people of Llantwit as we are very grateful."

"We sell the same curtains and wool as the supermarkets, but cheaper. We check prices locally and online, and this is to reward customer loyalty - our all-year-round special offer."

They also offer professional curtains and clothing alterations, and full home measuring and fittings - including 20 samples to peruse.

Another retailer with big news, Pastures Green, have just celebrated 25 years in business - "A great achievement in the current climate", according to owner Kathy.

They offer a full range of flowers and greenery, and a big range of Christmas features for the home, such as Yankee Candles and "very upmarket" Ashleigh and Burwood of London fragrance lamps.

Part of the Interflora setup, they can deliver anywhere in the world, and there is plenty to calm husbands hunting



Kayleigh Granelli, Gordon Taylor and Hollie Billington don their pyjamas to New Hope for Children in Need.

for their wives and business owners wishing to thank their staff.

Kathy added: "We would really like to thank the local community for all their support over the past 25 years."

If unique is what you are looking for, then House Envy could be the place for you. Whether you are "keeping ahead of the trends" or looking for that rustic feel, this modern-looking venue in Boverton (opposite the Boverton Castle pub) could be right up your street.

There's Scandinavian 'Nordic-style' Christmas decorations, or 'Cable and Cotton' lights, where

you choose the coloured cotton balls you want and add to the cable to create the mood you require.

Culinary and kitchenware has a rustic feel, while the lighting and cushions available can spruce up any home. The fantastic range of men's gifts includes books, clocks, cocktail shakers, flasks, beer holders and cufflinks. As owner Nicola says: "We're not just a girly shop!"

"Regulars come in knowing I am an interior journalist and they can ask advice and pick my brains. All the brands we sell I've known and

written on for years so we have really good relationships with them."

House Envy are also trying to get their new website live as soon as possible, so keep an eye out!

Alternatively, why not spruce up your home, or that of a close acquaintance? Elaine Jones Interiors are new in town and here to help out.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 18



Janet and John Moisan have had a huge hand in planning the big lights switch-on again this year.

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Christmas Markets

£18

Bath

Bath Christmas Market 130 quaint wooden stalls line the squares and streets surrounding the impressive Bath Abbey, selling everything you could possibly need for your festive celebrations. With designer boutiques all around, you can't fail to find everything you are looking for.

Birmingham Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market has become a huge favourite with both residents and visitors to the city from all over the UK and Europe. Combined with the city's own Christmas Craft Fair of local traders, it offers a total of over 180 stalls to browse and enjoy.

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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Llantwit has plenty to offer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Located on Wine Street, just past The Old Swan and The White Hart, there are lots of gift ideas – vouchers, lighting, hand-made curtains and blinds, lamps – anything for the home from small decorations to a re-design: accessories “to bring the style home”, as Elaine puts it.

“We’re in the heart of old Llantwit. It’s a bit of a fancy shop – looks old fashioned from the outside but with a modern feel.”

A showroom more than a shop, it is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, while the rest of the week Elaine can be found in clients’ houses via appointments – checking what they want and discussing how to do it.

She has a ‘fabric library’ available to find material/mirrors/lighting customers want, and takes them in to the

home to check they are suitable.

Elaine will be hosting a ‘Christmas gift open weekend’ on Friday and Saturday, November 30–December 1, with late opening on Thursday, November 29, so pop in and see what she can do for your home – drinks and nibbles available.

For the IT lovers in your life, **PC of Mind** stock a range of tablets ready for Christmas – the “in thing” this year according to owner Richard Steele.

The Windows 8 operating system is also expected to be a hit this year, with the shop offering Windows 7 or 8 on all new towers – as it is “very fast”, and it’s a good idea to “upgrade from Vista because it’s very cheap at the moment”.

They also make towers for gaming lovers, can source parts for custom-made PCs, and there is also a full range



Nicky Foster with Health Conscious' range of chocolate Christmas treats.

of repairs offered on PCs and laptops.

Health Conscious offer a range of chocolates – Fairtrade, Vegan, soya-free, gluten-free and dairy-free – for the sweet-toothed members of the family, while their Christmas bathing essential gift sets are Parabens-free and Sodium Laurel Sulphate-free.

As owner Nicky says, they’re: “Natural things without any nasties”.

Nicky can also offer advice on how to stay healthy over the festive period, so pop in to find out how.

Fashion fiends need look no further than **Rio** – who offer their usual vast range of garments, complemented by a tremendous amount of gifts and accessories – sterling silver, jewellery, handbags, purses and scarves.

Knitwear can provide the perfect gift for grandparents, with “pretty-coloured jumpers and cardigans” being popular as “we don’t do black”, according to owner Tina Morgan.

There are also furs and leather coats, which are: “beautiful as bigger gifts”.

If you fancy nourishment after all that shopping, head down to **Illtud's 216** on Church Street. They offer two-course or three-course options on food for Christmas parties; customers can also pop in off the street to take advantage of their festive delights.

On Christmas Day they will be offering a five-course Gala lunch, while New Year’s Eve sees a disco and buffet made available, with Georg and Einar welcoming all with a DJ, prizes and quiz taking place.

This year, the big light switch-on takes place on December 8, in the old town around the Cenotaph between 3pm and 6pm, when the lights are switched on.

Organised by the Llantwit Major Illuminations Committee, sponsored by the Vale Council and the town council, plus a grant from Community Chest, and a partnership between the town council and the Chamber of Trade, there will be entertainment from 4pm-6pm, and stalls in the town hall selling festive home-made gifts and promoting charities and small societies.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 19



Richard and Craig of PC of Mind.



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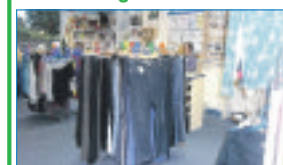
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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



CHRISTMAS IN LLANTWIT



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

There is a minimal charge for stalls, and anyone is welcome to have one.

The lantern parade will take place at 5.30pm, walking from the rugby club to the town, sponsored by the illuminations committee. It will be in aid of cystic fibrosis, and supervised by police.

Lantern workshops take place on December 2, and you can email Lucy Thomas at: nowmrstomas@btinternet.com for more information.

The town's Christmas tree will be sited in the town square near the Old White Hart public house; donated by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Stagedoor 1 have been confirmed to perform, while other choirs will also hopefully be performing. Santa will be in his grotto in The Old White Hart, made possible by Graham Morgan, with soup available.

A grant from HSBC has also enabled the purchasing of new lights –

arranged by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

Young racing 'celebrity' Nancy Thomas, a regular in the pages of The GEM, with her father pushing her buggy around various courses, will be switching the lights on this year.

Contact Janet Moisan on 07845 161643 for more information and to book a stall.

The Swan Inn will also be prominent in the switch-on, hosting stalls in their beer garden, and providing a hog roast and mulled wine.

They are helping to provide a stage for live music with The White Hart, and are arranging live music in the evening after the lights come on.

They are currently taking Christmas bookings for groups, couples and families, and are open between 12 noon and 2pm on Christmas Day to serve drinks only. Then comes their famed Irish brunch on Boxing Day for those who don't want to step into the kitchen again.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 20**



The Sewing Box welcomes some new top brands to their new store on The Precinct.



Tina Morgan at Rio Ladies Fashions.

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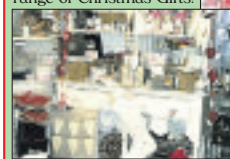
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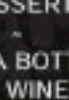
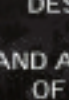
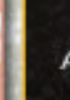
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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



The new wool range in The Sewing Box.



Elaine Jones Interiors, at 4 Wine Street in old Llantwit, hosts a 'fabric library' where customers can search for exactly what they require.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19
Bookings are taken already, with customers advised to book early due to popular demand.

Manager Sean Murphy would like to thank his customers for their continued support – and wish everyone a "Merry Christmas".
For something a little different, there is also the **New Hope** charity shop, who have organised a Christmas draw – "Guess My Name".

The lucky winner will receive a £50 cash prize and, of course, the soft toy dog!

Owner Gordon said: "We are hoping to repeat this in the new year on a monthly basis, starting off with a £100 cash prize. If successful, we hope to increase that."

On Friday November 16, for Children in

Need, some staff had a pyjama day and donated the takings to the charity. This came to £196.40; however, that wasn't enough for New Hope, who matched it and rounded it up to £400.

ABOVE:
Sarah Thomas of The Flower Shop, which also has an array of gifts this season.

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT
EAGLESWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

From tiny acorns...

THE arrival of 60 trees from the Woodlands Trust during the first week of this half term proved to be the perfect spring-board to re-launch our school bid for the Eco Schools Green Flag award.

The school registered with the Woodlands Trust earlier in the year, and cherry, rowan and birch trees were delivered to develop a copse.

Pupils from the nursery right up to year-6 planted the saplings to coincide with World Day of Action.

Also, the school's nurture group, Eco Eagles, and our after school club planted saplings. The pupils will care for the trees for the next two years, finding out a wide variety of information, including growing conditions, leaf structure and habitats.

After the two years is up, we hope to transplant these trees into the local community to enhance our landscape.

Many of our former pupils will have fond memories of planting trees in the Lorna Hughes Memorial Park. As well as those three varieties, an oak sapling, grown from an acorn harvested from the Royal Grounds, was planted by the head-teacher, Mr Watkins.

Eagleswell Primary School is hoping to be taking delivery of a further 60 trees in March, in order to develop a hedgerow to attract wildlife into the school grounds.

Many thanks to the Woodlands Trust for supplying the trees, and to Nicola Richards and Cath Miles for all their help with the planting.

Part of the Eco Schools Green Flag status application process involved the selection of a new eco committee.

Pupils from year-2 to year-6 had to show how committed they were to further promoting the Eco Schools' message. Year 3-6 pupils had to complete application forms, outlining the qualities they felt were important to being part of the committee, and what they would like to achieve in their role as members.

'Switch Off Fortnight'
WE are currently undertaking a number of projects, including 'Switch Off Fortnight' and 'Goodbye to Standby'.

Switch Off Fortnight is a national initiative highlighting the fact that if we all used less electricity, less greenhouse gases would be produced in order to supply that electricity. It began on Monday (November 19), and runs until Sunday, December 2.



A pupil enjoys her tree planting.

Assemblies at foundation phase and at Key Stage two highlighted the ways in which we can see the effects of climate change and global warming.

Examples of renewable energy were discussed, including whether we could have solar power for our school.

All pupils are taking part in a project to try to reduce the amount of electricity that is wasted, both in school and at home. And, of course, it's cheaper too!

Children in Need On Friday, November 16, Eagleswell pupils arrived in an array of outfits, including pyjamas, football kits and favourite superheroes in aid of BBC Children in Need.

Pupils brought in bags of pennies and tuppennies to place along corridors and walkways to create 'a mile of pennies'.

More than £200 was raised. Many thanks to the pupils and parents from Pudsey!

Road safety week

Last week, Mr John Rogers from the Vale Road Safety department came in to present uniforms and badges to this year's junior road safety officers (JRSOs).

Pupils from year-5 and 6 were given the opportunity to apply. Five pupils were chosen; two from year-6 – Georgia Bingham and Jessica Fitzpatrick, and three from year-5 – Sean Renee, Libby Clarke and Tahnee Farman.

Mr Rogers and Mrs Richardson, our JRSO co-ordinator, presented the JRSOs with their name badges, high visibility vests and a new addition for this year – woolly hats.

To coincide with road safety week, the JRSOs spoke in assembly, raising the awareness of staying safe on the roads, especially as it gets dark earlier.

Many thanks to both Mr Rogers and Mrs Richardson.

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Out and About with The GEM

How to visit Santa on Reindeer Day

THIS Sunday's Reindeer Parade in Cowbridge has made a small change to the way Santa's Grotto will operate.

Because the attraction has been so popular in recent years, organisers have decided that to avoid long queues, access to Santa's Grotto will be by ticket only.

A spokesman for Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Lions, who organise the grotto, explained: "The free tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come first served' basis

from 11am on the day.

"Each ticket will grant access to one family but don't delay, as the number of tickets is strictly limited, since Santa can only stay for a short time.

"Santa will be in his Grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm and tickets will be allocated for slots between these times.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience, a generous donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

WHAT'S ON

SONGWRITER, acoustic and electric guitarist, harmonica player and singer, **Eddie Martin**, who has been described as the "most remarkable blues man of his generation", appears at *The King William IV* in Barry at 8pm on Saturday (November 24).

School fayre

ROMILLY Primary School on Romilly Road, Barry, is holding its Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 24 (1pm-4pm), when Santa will be visiting, and there will be funfair games, raffles, bouncy castle, craft stalls and refreshments.

All proceeds go towards items for the school, everyone is welcome.

Mount Pleasant table top sale

A TABLE top sale will take place at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Cadroxton, Barry, on Saturday, November 24 from 2pm-4pm.

Admission is free with free refreshments. Money raised will be given to friends and neighbours in the area who are struggling at this difficult time.

Come and bag a bargain (perhaps a Christmas present!).

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, November 25 at 2pm, 'War bunkers and coastal path', starting at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

Choir coffee

BARRY Ladies Choir will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, November 27 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Age Concern jumble sale

AGE CONCERN Cardiff and the Vale will be holding a fundraising jumble sale on Wednesday, November 28, 2pm-5.30pm at the Mackintosh Church (The Mack), 61-63 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff (Albany Road junction).

All are welcome; come along, pick up a bargain and support our local charity.

There will be a huge selection of goods on offer, including quality second hand clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, plus an area dedicated to vintage items.

For more information, contact 02920 683604 or 07584 346015.

Pothole fillers!

THE Vale Council's BIG Fill campaign will be in Castledand ward, Barry, on November 24 - 25, and residents can report potholes until November 23.

Phone the council on 01446 700111 or email: thebigfill@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk

Christmas fayre

ST BRIDGET'S Church, St Brides Major, is holding its Christmas fayre at Church Hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major, this Saturday, November 24, from 10am to 12 noon.

Among the many attractions will be a cake stall, tombola, bottle stall, Christmas cards and gifts, arts and crafts stalls, games and a prize draw for a Christmas hamper.

Praying together

AS Crossway Methodist Church nears the end of its 50th anniversary year, it is holding an afternoon of prayer this Saturday, November 24, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm, for

church members to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God, and for others to explore prayer.

Visitors can light a candle in memory of loved ones.

For more information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262 or: revpete@live.co.uk.

This Sunday, November 25, at 6pm, the annual visit of Barry Male Voice Choir takes place at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road.

School's fayre

BARRY High Street Primary School is holding its Christmas fayre on Friday, November 30.

There will be a variety of stalls, bric-a-brac, crafts, bouncy castle, face painting, nail painting, cake stall, as well as Santa's Grotto.

There will also be refreshments on sale. The event will take place after school, from 3pm onwards.

Charity coffee

COWBRIDGE 'Stitch and Bitch' group is holding a coffee morning and Christmas craft sale on Saturday, December 8, at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, from 11am to 2pm.

All proceeds will be donated to Y Bwthyn Hospice, Bridgend.

Woodturners' skills on show

THE Vale Woodturners' Christmas fair will be held at Bonvilston Reading Rooms, Bonvilston, on Saturday, December 8, 10am-4pm.

On sale will be crafted wooden gifts, and there will be woodturning demonstrations. Free entry and parking.



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SPOOKY TALES HAUNT SULLY AND SWANBRIDGE!

THE hamlet of Swanbridge lies on the coast overlooking the Bristol Channel, four miles south of Penarth.

It is unclear where the name Swanbridge originates from; but it was at one time a working harbour, as documents from the 16th Century specify that skippers of boats were obliged to pay a levy to local officials for transporting their wares from distant shores into the port.

In 1569, 2,000 blocks of cheese and 80 barrels of butter were impounded by an official as the captain of the vessel from Penarth had not paid his duty tax.

The harbour (or creek as it is sometimes known) also acquired unwelcome immigrants from shores beyond the Channel. Goods, both for import and export, were transported to neighbouring towns and villages via St Mary's Well Road.

Iron mooring rings can still be seen on the eastern side of the bay, as a reminder of the trades of days gone by.

Swanbridge became linked to other destinations around the area by the Taff Vale Railway line, where its people could travel in style to other destinations around the country.

Swanbridge Halt was built in 1890, but became another victim of the Beeching axe in 1968, and was left abandoned,

or bought by businesses who sold its rail tracks for scrap.

Archaeologists unearthed evidence of Roman and Viking visitation and a Bronze Age fort with a stronghold barrow in the area. A Danish Iron Age buttress, which occupied the eastern side of the island, together with the Bronze Age barrow and post medieval port on the northeastern side, were all then listed as monumental landmarks.

Across the foreshore of Swanbridge, lies the island of Sully, which is only accessible via the causeway and can be cut off by the rapid incoming tide. Thought to mean 'South Lea or Pasture', it gets its name from the Norman Knight Reginald de Sully from Devon, who built a small fortress on the island for protection against pirates. Today, the remains of a small wall are the only evidence of its existence.

Sully Island had become a haunt for pirates, with Alfredo De Marisco, the Norman pirate known as 'The Night Hawk' based here in the 13th Century. This was the beginning of the notorious smuggling trade.

By 1330, Lords of Avan (d'Avene) had purchased the island, and in 1348, Hugh le Despenser, Lord of Glamorgan, acquired the land.

Later, the islet was sold to Sir Thomas Stradling, an upstanding

citizen throughout the whole community of Glamorgan at the time.

Sully's most famous ship wreck was the SY (Survey Yacht) Scotia. This ship originated as a sealer vessel named Hekla from Norway.

Its captain was Tam Robertson and during the Great War, the vessel became a freighter, which unfortunately caught fire around Sully Island. Its diminished keel then sank into the depths of the hungry sea.

Sully Church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, and stands on an ancient edifice containing a silver chalice dating from 1567. The church became a listed building on January 22, 2000.

The Captain's Wife is a public house at Swanbridge, haunted by the wife of a ship's captain. It once spanned three cottages to house fishermen, sailors and their families.

Appropriately, it was named Sully House as it overlooks the harbour and Sully Island. This 'watering hole' and restaurant opened its doors for trade in 1977.

Legend maintains that Captain Winstanley was commanded to sail on a voyage to Jamaica by his lover's disapproving father. His daughter was then forced to marry

Colonel Rhys, a man with an upstanding position. The marriage was not a success because his wife pined for her lover.

So, when Captain Winstanley returned

from his expedition, secret meetings were arranged for the lovers, only for them to be discovered.

Colonel Rhys was killed in a duel between the rivals and the lovers then eloped together at sea, but were burnt alive in a fire in their cabin.

She is said to haunt the house that she shared with her husband, in search of her true love.

Another twist on this legendary tale involves a captain taking his wife on a voyage where she died of a fever en route. Not to arouse suspicion, he placed his wife's corpse in a lead-lined box. On return to Swanbridge, he buried her remains in the woods.

The coffin was subsequently stolen, denying her a Christian burial, and her soul of unrest haunts the building, with her hazy image reported to stalk the floorsboards wearing a black dress.

Another account of this sinister tale claims that the captain rowed his deceased wife ashore at the dead of night and hid her body within the house, from where it was stolen.

When the building was renovated, the eerie discovery of a skeleton was unearthed in the woods behind the abode.

Could this fearful find be the remains of the Captain's wife? *But which version is true?*

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Saturday 8th December

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MINGLE...



MUSE...



RELAX...



UNWIND...



One of the Vale's best known restaurants has two reasons to celebrate.

First, the Mughal Emperor, which is on Stalling Down, just outside Cowbridge, was recently singled out for a 'Highly Commended' award in the 2012 Tiffin Cup – a prestigious UK-wide competition involving the best South Asian restaurants.

In addition, the restaurant, which has been attracting customers from far and wide for more than 20 years – all under the same management – has just been refurbished to give the interior a brand new look.

The Mughal's longevity is clearly due to it being a family affair, as it is run by Mr Anhar Miah, with his brother Asad, and it operates on a tried and tested formula.

And there is nothing complicated about that formula, because the Mughal believes in the virtues of good, fresh ingredients, expertly cooked by skilled chefs, served by experienced



Mr Asad Miah, chef Shelim Ahmed and Alun Cairns MP.

staff – and all at a competitive price. Asad Miah said: "We have customers who come to us from Swansea in the west and from Cardiff in the east, because they consistently get quality food here.

"What is particularly pleasing is that they often bring friends with them, because they enjoy eating here and want to share the experience."

The new refurbishment, Mr Miah believes, will enhance that experience. The aim was to give the interior a more contemporary feel, but still keep the Mughal's strongest points.

The result is a spacious dining and reception area, with none of the tables too close together, and space to enjoy a drink before your meal.

The aim is to encourage diners to take their time over their meal and fully enjoy the evening. As the staff pride themselves on their knowledge and experience, there is plenty of time for customers to ask questions.

Someone new to Indian cuisine can be guided through their meal, while regular diners can discuss the finer points with staff who know their stuff.

Mr Miah said that they weren't prepared to cut corners when it came to quality.

He said: "We don't make things in bulk and store them. We use small



YOUR TABLE
awaits...



quantities on the night so that the dish is as fresh as possible."

The menu also contains a number of chef's recommendations, which are updated on a regular basis.

It was Vale MP Alun Cairns who nominated the Mughal Emperor to compete in the Tiffin Cup.

He said: "I am delighted that The Mughal Emperor in Cowbridge was Highly Commended in this year's Tiffin Cup.

"It is such a prestigious competition, and to be honoured in this way is testament to the fantastic efforts of Mr Miah, the manager and all the staff at the Mughal."

Mr Cairns visited The Mughal in Cowbridge to present the chef and team with a certificate and embroidered Tiffin Cup 2012 chef jacket to mark their achievement.

The Mughal Emperor has maintained its high reputation through concentrating on the old-fashioned virtues of quality and consistency, and the judges in the Tiffin Cup clearly agreed!

Opening hours: Lunchtime Monday-Saturday 12 noon-2pm. Evening Monday-Sunday 6pm-12 midnight.

Catering for parties up to 120

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



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LA CUCINA coffee house and restaurant is emblematic of strong, independent businesses that are the cornerstone of a successful and vibrant shopping area.

The owner, Ferda, told The GEM: "We've been in Barry for 10 years now – four years in High Street, followed by six years in Holton Road."

"La Cucina provides a relaxed, friendly, welcoming atmosphere and people enjoy the fact that we provide continuity in the local area. We are not a 'here-today-gone-tomorrow' business."

"People recognise us as an authentic Barry business, and I'd like to thank our many regulars for their custom." For office workers

or shoppers who want a snack or a meal, it is the ideal port of call.

The choice is bewildering – coffees, lattes, cappuccinos, teas, soft drinks, milkshakes, iced teas, sandwiches with side salads, soups, paninis, jacket meals, homemade lasagne, chilli con carne, spaghetti bolognese, meat balls, chocolate cake, lemon drizzle cake, almond tart – and that's just a small selection of what's on offer!

Ferda added: "People appreciate that La Cucina provides consistent, high quality food that is reasonably priced, and served in a spotless environment."

SPECIALIST
Just around the corner Pets R Us, on Regent Street, remains the essential destination for Barry's animal lovers.

Steve Lane, the owner, explained that part of the reason for the shop's continued success was that the staff all have specialist knowledge in the products on sale.

"We are all enthusiastic and qualified in giving pet nutrition advice – all of the staff own animals themselves, whether it is a dog, a cat or another kind of animal."

The store is the official stockist for a number of premium dog foods such as Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Burns, Proplan and Hills Science Plan, and provides a dog grooming service.

At Christmas it is the 'go to' place for pet lovers with a huge selection of treats, toys, and even doggy Christmas cards!

Steve also deals in exotic pets and sells tropical and cold-water fish, snakes, lizards, hamsters, and tortoises, along with the necessary food supplies. The tropical fish section is particularly

impressive and specialist advice is provided by Kevin Jones and Ben Taplin.

Kevin said: "It's easy for people to pick a tank that's suitable for them – we stock all the heaters, pumps and lighting to go with them. We also do aquarium plants."

"People can then select the Malawi cichlids, 'oddballs and rarities' they want."

The great thing about having a tropical fish tank is the sense of peace and calm it provides in a house.

Another 'hardy perennial' at Upper Holton Road is JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop – as well known throughout south Wales as it is in its home town.

John Lewis and his staff provide expert advice on all things musical and also travel far and wide providing stages, sound systems and lighting for dozens of events.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)



ABOVE:
La Cucina, owned by Ferda, is a popular independent coffee house and eatery favoured by visitors to Holton Road.

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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers



A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

John has provided sound for the Barry Firework Fiesta for 39 years!

If your son or daughter is keen on a musical instrument for Christmas, JPL Sound is the best place to go because, unlike online retailers, John or a member of staff will offer expert advice and help when the present arrives at the shop, to make sure it is perfect for Christmas Day.

A few doors away, Morgan Davies Tattoos can provide a Christmas present with a difference.

Morgan said: "I do a wide selection of tattoos and they work out at £100 for three hours work.

"If requested, I can do an evening session.

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"If people want more information, they should go to facebook.com/morganjohndavies."

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LIGHT UP THE SQUARE

KING SQUARE, BARRY, FRI 30 NOVEMBER, 3PM - 6.30PM

Enjoy live music from 'All That Jazz', 'Oyster Opera' and 'Yuletide Rocks' along with the Christmas street entertainers. Some of the Vale of Glamorgan's London 2012 Olympic torchbearers will be turning on the town's Christmas lights on the Square and on the Christmas tree at 6pm. The evening will finish with 'NU Cracker', a festive performance from 'motion Control Dance' - a modern remake of the traditional ballet story.

LET IT SNOW!

CENTRAL PARK, BARRY, SAT 15 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculptures and live music. The day will also feature 'The Christmas Storytelling Tent', a beautiful festive puppet show especially suitable for younger children.

For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit www.visitthevale.com, while you can also keep up to date with local events news by following @visitthevale on Twitter!

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG



A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



BARRY ENTREPRENEURS ADD A NEW SPARK TO HOLTON ROAD SHOPPING

LOCAL entrepreneurs are drawn to Holton Road because for more than a century it has been the main artery for business in the town.

As Christmas

approaches two new shops have opened – reinforcing the area's reputation for variety.

On Saturday, November 17, Retro Vibe Music, run by Claire Williams and Mark Owen, opened its doors to an enthusiastic Barry public.

Claire said: "As we were preparing the unit to start trading, people were knocking on the window wondering whether we were open yet or not. That's how enthusiastic people were to get in and look at what we stock."

Retro Vibe Music started on Vere Street, supplying people over the internet, but also operating as



ABOVE: Jay Lewis of Fresh-X-Press.

a retail location.

Claire and Mark are keeping Vere Street as a base for stock and Holton Road is now their 'over-the-counter' arm of the business.

Just walking onto the premises, which sells vinyl records and CDs, is a trip down memory lane.

Beatles' LP covers jostle with Queen, who perch next to ELO, who... well you get the idea – although as Claire explained it's not just the 40-plus generation who love the nostalgic throwback nature of the venture.

"Often it's people in their twenties who

love coming in and seeing the iconic covers. Barry needs a record shop like this.

"We have both brand new and second hand stock – lots of potential Christmas gifts."

One of Claire and Mark's key aims is to maintain links with the strong local performing scene, publicising live musical events, and becoming

a local 'hub' for people who love music of whatever vintage.

Is there a golden record or CD that you were desperate to track down? Then get down to Retro Vibe Music – fast!

More information on the service provided by Claire and Mark is available at: www.Retro-vibemusic.com.

Just a few doors away, Fresh-X-Press is owned by local man Jay Lewis.

The shop has a distinctive green livery, emphasising the 'fresh' food on offer. It's the ideal destination for local office and shop workers who want to choose from the salad bar, enjoy a baguette, a snack, a cake or a drink. The salad bar starts at just £2 –

great value.

Jay, who is Barry born and bred, said: "We will even deliver in Barry for a minimum order of £5 and have already taken some big orders in the town."

The premises are welcoming, spacious and light.

Jay added: "It is all open plan and people can see the food being prepared."

All three entrepreneurs had one thing in common: they were determined to make a success of the businesses and keen to provide the best service to their clientele.



ABOVE: Claire Williams of Retro Vibe Music is bringing musical nostalgia to Holton Road.

THE OLD POST OFFICE Coffee Shop

Small Breakfast

5 items, coffee or tea, and toast £3.95

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9 items, coffee or tea, and toast £5.50

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS - KING'S SQUARE, BARRY

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 30th November 2012	The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street.	18.00 – 20.00

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2012

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
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51 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



Tiffin Rasoi in line for two prestigious national awards!

ONE of Barry's highly rated Indian takeaways, Tiffin Rasoi located on 37 Holton Road, has been short-listed for the British Curry Awards 2012 and the Asian Curry Awards 2012.

A spokesman for the company said: "Tiffin Rasoi is a premier Indian takeaway offering Indian food with no artificial colours or flavours.

"The menu integrates both traditional favourites with new and creative dishes which are freshly prepared.

"We are looking forward to the results of the Asian Curry Awards, which will be announced at The Great Room, in the JW Marriott Hotel, Park Lane, London, this

Sunday, November 25."

Guests will join hundreds of leading restaurateurs and caterers under the spotlight of international TV, and rub shoulders with VIPs, politicians, business leaders and celebrities.

The results of the British Curry Awards will be announced at a glittering black tie gala dinner at one of London's biggest and most prestigious venues, Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park Lane, on Monday November 26.

The event will be broadcast to more than 200 countries through Star Plus, BBC and other channels.

Tiffin Rasoi, 37 Holton Road, Barry. www.tiffinrasoi.com

Old Post Office now a popular coffee shop

Hannah Andrews and Lisa Eveleigh pride themselves on the community atmosphere in 'The Old Post Office Coffee Shop'.

THE Old Post Office Coffee Shop has made a huge impression on Upper Holton Road, since opening in May this year.

The owner Lisa Eveleigh is keen to make the shop a community hub, where people can meet up with a friend, or as part of a group, and have a meal or a snack. It's hardly a surprise



that in a few short months it has become so popular. Lisa explained: "We've already developed a regular clientele – many love our five-item breakfast for £3.95,

with tea or coffee and toast, and the £5.50 one with nine items and a drink and toast!

"We pride ourselves on the friendly, welcoming atmosphere – it's a real family-run business."

This week Lisa and the staff are putting up decorations for Christmas and promise some special festive puddings and cakes over the next few weeks.

The Old Post Office Coffee Shop used to be Weston Hill Post Office. Lisa opens at 8.30am – so make a date for breakfast, a snack or lunch – you won't be disappointed!



ABOVE:
Kevin Jones and Ben Taplin provide great advice on tropical fish at Pets R Us.

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Would like to wish all clients a Merry Christmas

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FRIENDLY WELCOME ON HOLTON MILE



ABOVE:
Morgan Davies provides a Christmas present with a difference – a tattoo. People can choose a design they like and book a session.



ABOVE:
Yanie, of George's No 1 Barbers in Regent Street, promises some mince pies and nibbles in the lead-up to Christmas.

EXCLUSIVE HAIR @ ANDREOUS

Andria, Maria, Natalie & girls would like to wish all their clients a Merry Christmas.

PLEASE BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS HAIR APPOINTMENTS NOW!

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Why should I fit winter tyres?

More than half of UK motorists admit feeling less safe driving in the winter, yet many of us do little to prepare our cars for the colder weather. Research commissioned by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation, found the biggest worry for drivers in the winter is that they are more likely to have an accident as the roads feel more slippery.

Switching to winter tyres could dramatically increase your safety over the entire winter period and could even save you money. They're constructed to give you a much better grip, reducing your stopping distances on wet or icy roads. And because they are specially designed to operate in temperatures below 7°C, their wear rate is significantly better than normal 'summer' tyres in the colder winter months!

Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident
- 12% only narrowly avoided a collision.
- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

Let's put a stop to accidents this winter

These stopping distances prove you're less likely to get in a scrape if you switch to winter tyres.

BRAKING ON ICY ROADS FROM 20mph (32km/h) TO REST

WINTER TYRES	57m
SUMMER TYRES	68m

BRAKING ON SNOWY ROADS FROM 30mph (48km/h) TO REST

WINTER TYRES	35m
SUMMER TYRES	43m

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



Sarah, Michelle and Sam of Fresh Hair have opened their new salon on Holton Road.

ABOVE:
The Scented Garden provides bouquets and flower arrangements for family celebrations and special events – and has put on an impressive Christmas window to cheer people up this festive season.

Coyotes
Unisex Hair Salon

Mel, Annisa and staff would like to welcome Bernice to Coyotes, formerly of Salon 23.

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(off Holton Road), Barry
Tel: 01446 403530

PTA's *The Master* a slow-burning piece of dramatic filmmaking

HAVING wowed audiences with *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, turned Adam Sandler into a straight actor in *Punch-Drunk Love*, and turned the phrase 'I drink your milkshake' into a harrowing declaration of intent in *There Will Be Blood*, the next movements of Paul Thomas Anderson were always going to be closely monitored, especially given the success afforded to ... *Blood*.

His follow-up, *The Master*, sees Philip Seymour Hoffman play Lancaster Dodd, the leader of a mysterious cult which draws in

drifting ex-serviceman Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix); but is the cult as it seems, and will Freddie be able to exist within it...?

It's unarguable that Paul Thomas Anderson is one of the most revered modern filmmakers working today. His Robert Altman-esque ability to create multi-strand narratives without losing focus, coupled with a Scorsese-like dexterity with the camera, means that he is truly an auteur in an age where the term is banded around a little too freely.

While his previous films all struck different notes, *The Master* is a film that is not tonally unfamiliar from *There Will Be Blood*; while that gothic masterpiece

is revered for searing performances and hard-edged dramatics, *The Master* strikes a little more softly, the film a slow-burner and one that will likely divide audiences between engrossing character study and mind-numbing pretension.

For this reviewer, it is closer to the former, PTA drawing vivid characters that are well inhabited by strong performances, yet the narrative feels a little too loose-fitting, its woozy (and in places boozy) aesthetic sometimes feeling somewhat unfocused, particularly over a running time of 144 minutes.

Yet the film's main drawing power is the time invested in the two leads, Freddie and Lancaster, two different men brought together by fate who then become inextricably connected.

The background to the relationship is loosely written; however, the exchanges between the two are so well-written that you can put that to the back of your mind and just savour the dialogue between them.

PTA's writing has always veered to the arch and so it continues here – great slabs of



by GARETH JAMIESON

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dialogue punctured with information, some of it relevant, some of it not – but when you see actors of this calibre delivering, it is a true pleasure indeed.

Much pre-release bluster claimed it was a film looking into the nature of cult itself, in particular Scientology, but this is a notion that simply exists on the fringes of the story – the focus on the central pair's relationship, and how they are seemingly polar opposites, yet are so engrossed in the other that ultimately they are two sides of the

same coin, and PTA draws this well.

Visually, the film is absolutely gorgeous, the camera bathing in the luxuriant colours of 1950s America and striking the right balance between beauty and excess, the camera-work matching the film's loose structure with its hazy imagery, while the story and characters are given central focus with the lead turns incredibly mesmerising.

Joaquin Phoenix's career may have had the odd up and down over the last few years, but the actor's performance here is wonderfully realised, the intensity and self-destructive nature of the character complementing the actor so well.

There is a controlled aggression to Phoenix's performance which makes him a loose cannon, and all the more entertaining to watch on screen, balancing wonderfully well with Philip Seymour Hoffman's Lancaster.

Seymour Hoffman has never been so light as he is here, the character of Dodd a well-meaning, slightly bumptious man who is called the master of the title, but who is controlled by

his wife and who feels more like a genial uncle than the leader of a cult.

Investing him with warmth and compassion, and showing the man behind the facade, he is hugely impressive, as is Amy Adams as the strong-willed wife who steers Lancaster through his darker moments.

With its slow pace and loose narrative, *The Master* certainly won't appeal to everybody, but fans of PTA, and those who enjoy something substantial without it being based on a comic book or a computer game, should find something here to enjoy.

VERDICT: An engaging, but loosely-told story, *The Master* is another strong Paul Thomas Anderson film but one that will no doubt divide viewers. While some may find it too ponderous, strong central performances from Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman and PTA's brand of writing and direction make it an impressive piece of work. **Recommended.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *There Will Be Blood* (2008), *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995).

The police launch new website

SOUTH Wales Police have launched a new website to keep the public up to date on news in the area.

The website includes a number of features designed to publicise local and force-wide policing activities as well as provide practical information such as a postcode search to find your nearest police station and opening times.

The site is part of the force's commitment to improving accessibility to communities, maintaining transparency, and complements the force's five Twitter accounts which have a combined following of almost 25,000.

Chief Constable Peter Vaughan said: "As a police force we need to keep moving with the times and our new website will give people instant access to news and crime updates while at home, in work or on the move via smart phones."

"We wanted to create a site that puts the needs of the public first so we've made it easier to find and share information, whether that's the opening hours of police

stations, details about crime in specific areas, or news about people convicted in court.

Key features of the website www.south-wales.police.uk include:

- The latest news updates, with the option to receive RSS feeds;
- Behind Bars - a section which publicises recent court results;
- Wanted faces - appeals on people who are wanted for crimes;
- An improved freedom of information section which catalogues a comprehensive list of freedom of information disclosures.

FESTIVE GATHERING

THE Gathering Place in St Athan Christmas Jaye will be opened by BBC weatherman Derek Brockway on Saturday, December 1.

Ladies barbershop group 'Cardiff Style' will be entertaining with Christmas songs, and there will be craft stalls selling jewellery, cards, books, baby clothes, homemade jams, cakes, Usborne books, bric-a-brac. Santa will pop in. Join in the fun from 12 noon - 3pm.

Get jabbed!

DIABETES UK Cymru is backing the Welsh Government's Get Jabbed campaign, aimed at getting everyone at high risk from flu to have their free vaccination.

The flu jab is available in Wales from all GPs and, for the first time, at 137 selected pharmacies.

Those at risk include people with diabetes, those over 65 and in long term care, anyone with respiratory conditions, health professionals and pregnant women.

For more information, contact www.wales.nhs.uk and follow @getjabbed on Twitter.

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Girls dominate Rotary young singer competition



First prize winner, Asha Fletcher Peters with John Clarke, president of the Rotary Club.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Craig Reynolds – 11 Tennyson Road, Penarth – Proposed single storey side extension with disability access facilities, loft conversion and off road parking.

Mr A Paterson – 26 Birch Lane, The Paddocks, Penarth – Proposed two storey side extension. Mr and Mrs Mike Evans – 11 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth – Extensions to existing property including remodelling of existing accommodation. New garage.

Mr P Fisher – Llansannor and Llanharry Junior and Infant School, Ystradowen – Single storey extension to the existing classroom block at Llansannor C/W Primary School. Mrs Christina Germon – 2 Cwrt Yr Iolo, Flemingston – Retain purpose built pigeon loft, replacing dilapidated structure.

Vijay Singh – Highbanks, Walston Road, Wenvoe – Remove ash tree. Fitz Project Management – Land rear of 2 Orchard Drive and Warwick Way, Barry – Yard to rear of 2 Orchard Drive; proposed lock up garages.

Mr David Curtis – 28 Smithies Avenue, Sully – Alteration and extension to an existing three bedroom single storey residential unit to create a four-bedroom two-storey residential property.

Mrs Anna Grant – 21 Herbert Street, Barry – Retrospective consent for existing garage (as extended in 2010). Mr Terry Donovan – 56 Redlands Road, Penarth – Conversion and extension of a detached garage to form a separate dwelling. J V Tree Services – Land at Coed Arthur, Llancafarn – Planning application for the construction of new forestry track.

Mr T Edgell – Llwynddu House, Welsh St Donats – Rear extension and alterations to facade. Mr Duncan Barber – 1-3 Llandough Castle Flats, Llandough –

Demolition, alteration and extension works to apartment nos 1-3 Llandough Castle Flats. Llantwit Major Town Council – Lorna Hughes Park, High Street, Llantwit Major – Crown lifts to nine trees. Remove five trees (three silver birch, one cherry and one ash) and two self-sown sycamores.

Mr David Evans – 88 Lavernock Road, Penarth – Additional vehicular crossover to allow in and out use of front driveway.

Mr Roy Cook – 8 Beech Avenue, Ham Manor Park, Llantwit Major – Scots pine; either removal or 50 per cent reduction due to close proximity to property. Mr Michael Psaila – Upper Langeross Farm, Leckwith, Cardiff – Extension to caravan to provide extra bedroom.

Mr Thomas – 36 Rhose Road, Rhose – Single rear storey extension with access ramp to the front and new porch. With additional pedestrian access to the rear.

Mr Steve Sloman – Outside Green Close, Ffordd Yr Eglwys, Peterston Super Ely – Pollard ash tree.

Mr T Williams – Fommon Farm House, Barry –

Microgeneration domestic wind turbine in adjoining field.

Mr Russell Hooper – The Stables, Village Farm, Marcross – Installing three solar panels (flush mounted) on roof of dwelling.

Mr Glyn George – Y Felin Fach, Monknash – Removal of Condition 5, variation of Condition 4 from application 2012/00560/FUL.

Mr Nigel Esterkin – 55 Holton Road, Barry – Change of use of upper floors, from office, to self contained residential flats.

FOLLOWING the very successful instrumentalist competition on November 7, Llantwit Major Rotary Club ran its 'Young Musician' competition for vocalists.

Although the instrumental competition has been running for a number of years, this was the first time for vocalists, and what an event it proved to be!

Held in Cowbridge Comprehensive, there were seven young ladies taking part (no boys, unfortunately) and they sang a very wide range of pieces.

Each of the competitors was required to perform two contrasting songs and they were judged on communication, presentation, technique and content.

Paige Sherreard started off the competition with 'Green Finch and Linnet Bird' from *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim followed by 'Somebody Loved' by the Weepies. In the second of these, she was accompanied by her brother Ryan on the guitar.

Paige was followed by Ellie Williams with the well-known 'Somewhere' from *West*

Side Story by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, then 'Till There Was You' from *Music Man* by Meredith Wilson.

Next, Sophie Thomas performed 'The Silver Swan' by Orlando Gibbons and 'Standchen' by Schubert.

She was followed by Charlotte Adams who sang 'I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly' by Purcell followed by 'My Ship' from *Lady in the Dark* by Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin.

Verity-Belle Atkinson was awarded third place with her rendition of the contrasting 'Panis Angelicus' by Cesar Franck and 'I Could Have Danced all Night' from *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Loewe.

Olivia Hopper was placed second with two pieces from the musicals; 'Somewhere' from *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim and 'Can't Help Lovin' dat Man' from *Showboat* by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein.

The judges were unanimous in placing Asha Fletcher Peters in first place with her wonderfully lyrical and dramatic performance of 'Green Finch and Linnet Bird' from *Sweeney Todd* and 'Daddy's Son'



ABOVE:
The competitors

from *Ragtime* by Flaherty and Alen.

The panel of judges comprised Nic Treharne, formerly of BBC and HTV music departments, Helena Braithwaite, former county advisor for music and an experienced instrumentalist and conductor, and Iona Jones, professional soprano and president of Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) over three days, November 22-24.

A spokeswoman said: "The cast is composed entirely of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major residents. Theatre fans from Cowbridge and beyond are urged to support the theatre.

"Doors open at 7pm, leaving time for a drink at the bar before the curtain goes up at 7.30pm."

Local theatre's latest show

COWBRIDGE'S local theatre is putting on its final play of the year, and the first night is tonight.

JB Priestley's drama-mystery, *Dangerous Corner*, will be staged at Cowbridge's Market Theatre (the official home of CADS, the Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) over three days, November 22-24.

A spokeswoman said: "The cast is composed entirely of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major residents. Theatre fans from Cowbridge and beyond are urged to support the theatre.

"Doors open at 7pm, leaving time for a drink at the bar before the curtain goes up at 7.30pm."

Tickets cost £6.50



Catrin Thomas-Price plays Olwen Peel.

from WG Davies *Newsagent's*, 38 Cowbridge High Street, or on the door.

To join CADS or find out more about the theatre, visit: www.market-theatre.com, telephone the CADS chairman on 01446 772141, or Camilla on 07734 543928.

CADS is currently looking for more members, both in acting and non-acting roles.

Eco-volunteers needed for litter-pick and tree planting

RIGHT: Pictured with various dumped tyres and litter at their last litter-pick at White Farm are Couns Rob and Claire Curtis, Eira Powell, and Couns Margaret Wilkinson and Anthony Powell.

THE recently-formed White Farm Conservation Group are looking for eco-volunteers to help them plant fruit trees and carry out a litter pick in the valley adjacent to Whitewell Road this Saturday (November 24), meeting at 10.30am at the junction of Whitewell Road and Coleridge Crescent.

All litter-picking equipment will be supplied but please wear appropriate clothing and boots.

More than 190 applicants from across Wales were successful in applying for free Homebase vouchers as part of Keep Wales Tidy's 'Have a Wild Weekend for Wales' campaign.

Funded by the Welsh Government, CCW and Homebase, the aim of the weekend-long campaign was to encourage groups to create new wildlife habitats to improve local biodiversity by undertaking small practical projects

to benefit native species. Volunteers from the White Farm Conservation Group were successful in applying for a £150 Homebase voucher, which they used to buy seven cherry, plum, apple and pear trees, as well as a number of bird nesting boxes for house sparrows, blue tits and kestrels.

During the 'Wild Weekend' they will plant the seven fruit trees along the boundary of White Farm at Whitewell Road and

erect bird nesting boxes in adjacent trees.

The fruit trees will provide nectar/pollen for bees and butterflies in the spring while providing free fruit in the autumn for local children. The nesting boxes will provide safe homes for a number of species of birds.

For more information on improving biodiversity in your area or other Keep Wales Tidy projects, email: tidy.towns@keep-wales.org.

Coun Rob Curtis



YOUNGSTERS PROVE THEY'RE NOT YET BOARD OF GAMES...



EIGHT boys from the junior section of the 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade Company took part in the Boys' Brigade in Wales' Board Games Competition on Friday, November 16 in Cardiff.

This involved playing Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes, Connect Four and Draughts. Although the one team were unplaced, the other team won the trophy. A fantastic effort from all!

Thanks also to the parents who helped with transport – without them the boys could not have participated.

The whole company also attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service on November 11 in Llantwit Major.

Golf club's unique honour for a very special member

PAULINE LEWIS has been a member of **RAF St Athan Golf Club** since 1980, which in itself reflects loyalty to the club, and throughout this time she has been willing to put her hand to a variety of duties.

Pauline was an accomplished golfer representing the ladies' section in league matches on numerous occasions, and as far back as the mid-80s played on the mixed foursome open circuit, often finishing in the top three.

She has been very successful in club competitions, winning both the ladies' invitation and David Hughes board competitions.

Pauline has been ladies' captain twice (1988, 2001) and was always willing to listen, resolute but fair in her decision making.

For a number of years, she was the ladies' handicaps and competitions member where her organising attributes came to the fore, ensuring competitions ran smoothly; the

yearly diary was ready for publication; and the ladies' trophies purchased in a timely manner for the annual presentation evening.

Pauline also took on the onerous task of junior organiser responsible for running junior competitions and away days.

She held this important position for more than 12 years, and during this period players such as Craig Sherman, Owen Davies, Steve Thomas, Will Morgan, Craig White and the Punter boys passed through into senior sections.

It is testimony to Pauline's hard work and her teacher's skills that those who are still members at RAF St Athan are good, respectable club members with low handicaps; one being a past club champion and one who is now chairman of play – succession planning to say the least.

A number of years ago, Pauline was involved in a horrific car accident where she suffered very serious injuries to her neck and back.

It was touch and go if she would survive, but despite spending many



ABOVE: Mrs Pauline James has been a member since 1980.

months in a wheelchair, she eventually 'got back on her feet'.

While golf was on the back burner for a long time, she still endeavoured to make a comeback, even though it was never to be the same standard.

Pauline now finds it difficult to play even five holes, but nevertheless continues to support all sections within the club; checking competition score cards for events such as captain's day, the Des Cole Shield, and members and guests, always falls upon Pauline.

Due to this continued support, the work over

the previous 32 years, and the possibility that the club may lose Pauline as a playing member, the directors, committee and members have decided to award the first honorary life membership to a lady member, Mrs Pauline Lewis.

It was unanimously decided that the club is far richer by having Pauline's presence and her smile around!

RAF St Athan Golf Club welcomes new social and playing members. For further information, contact the club manager (01446 751043).

CAROL MORGAN

Conference wants to re-balance Lottery funds

FIRST MINISTER Carwyn Jones will visit Porthcawl tomorrow (Friday, November 23) when the Grand Pavilion hosts a meeting of the **Industrial Communities Alliance**.

An all-party association which campaigns on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of Wales, England and Scotland, the alliance features 65 local authorities, including 10 from Wales.

Among the issues that the alliance will discuss is a 10-point plan for reviving the British economy, and why so little lottery funding comes to the industrial areas of Britain.

Between 1995 and 2012, Bridgend county borough received an average of £219 of lottery funding per person, while Manchester Central received £5,201 per head, Birmingham Ladywood £4,405 per person and Glasgow Central £3,506 per head.

Overall, Britain's industrial areas only received about 60 per

cent of the British average funding per head.

Delegates will be welcomed by the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Marlene Thomas, on the Thursday evening before the meeting.

Coun Phillip White, cabinet member for communities at BCBC and a member of the alliance's regional executive, said: "The alliance hasn't had a full meeting in Bridgend county borough for many years and it is a pleasure to host them."

"As well as bringing fresh visitors to the resort, I am particularly pleased that the First Minister will be attending this event."

"It will give a boost to the alliance's work in Wales in promoting the interests of industrial areas such as those once dependent on coal, and those still reliant on manufacturing and heavy industries such as steel."

"As a country, we have become over-dependent on financial services concentrated in the London area, and it is time to re-balance the economy."

Porthcawl singer to raise funds for charity project



Catherine Walters taking a curtain call after Porthcawl Comprehensive School's production of *Les Miserables*, where she played Fantine.

Photograph by MALCOLM NUGENT

A PORTHCAWL girl has just five weeks to raise £800 to support a project that tackles poverty in Bangladesh.

Catherine Walters, 19, of Nottage, is planning to travel to Bangladesh in January to work on a development programme for three months.

Catherine will team up with Bangladeshi volunteers to tackle some of the problems facing the community, after getting a place on the government-funded International Citizen Service (ICS).

ICS allows young people aged 18-25 to contribute to long-term development projects in countries like Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Nepal.

aims to tackle poverty-related issues such as health and hygiene, access to water, agriculture and education. "This is a unique opportunity to work alongside people from a different culture who have requested help from young volunteers to fight poverty and make a difference where it's needed most."

To sponsor Catherine, visit justgiving.com/CatherineWalters1. Alternatively, if you would like to offer assistance by donating a venue, prize or service, e-mail: catherine-walters@hotmail.com.

To find out more about ICS or to apply, visit: www.ics-uk.org.uk or call 0208 780 7400.

Church bazaar in Holton Road

THE Parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry is holding its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 24 at 11am in St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry.

A spokeswoman said: "This year we have a very special visitor who is flying in from Lapland, so come along and visit Santa in his Grotto. His elves will be with him and there will be a gift for everyone who visits him."

"We have lots of fun games for the children, face painting, and a bran tub. For the adults there are stalls galore with white elephant, bottle, cans, cakes, jewellery, Christmas gifts, toys, and, of course, refreshments."

"The prize draw has a first prize of a £50 Christmas hamper, plus many more prizes. Admission "50p – all children free."

Barry girl wins apprentice award



Amy Strange receives her award.

BARRY girl Amy Strange, a third-year aeronautical engineering apprentice with General Electric, has stood out as a committed and highly motivated individual, winning apprentice of the year at Coleg Morgannwg.

She gained recognition from the company for being the first apprentice ever to achieve all 11 distinctions, was presented with the engineering award from Coleg Morgannwg for highest achiever, had her Welsh Baccalaureate used as an exemplary example for the college, and has now been awarded the highly-coveted EEF Manufacturing Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Second Year Apprentice in Wales for her work last year.

Amy thanked GE Aviation Wales for their continued support and guidance throughout her apprenticeship so far, and expressed her thanks to Coleg Morgannwg, her parents Margaret and Tim, and her partner Charlotte, for motivating and encouraging her along the way.



FoBB volunteers at Watch Tower Bay, The Knap, with all their cleaning gear.

'Beach-clean protects wildlife'

BARRY-based environmental group Friends of Barry Beaches (FoBB) will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday, November 25 at Porthkerry Beach, meeting adjacent the Forest

Cafe at 3pm.

All volunteers welcome to spend an hour helping to clean the beach, but remember to wrap up warm and wear sturdy boots.

FoBB co-ordinator, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Once again, we need as many eco-volunteers as possible to help clean

Porthkerry Beach. Our volunteers are our real strength, without them we could achieve nothing."

"Helping to clear litter from our beaches is a really positive thing to do and protects our marine mammals and birds."

RC

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Ken Shapley – 3 Cosmeston Cottages, Lavernock Road, Penarth – Construction of a small two-bed cottage in plot at rear of 3 Cosmeston Cottages. Presently unused and overgrown at Lavernock Road. The proposed accessed via a private drive having repositioned crossover. Two parking spaces and turning space provided while still retaining three parking spaces and amenity space for existing No. 3.

Mr Matthew Jones – 77 High Street, Cowbridge – Replace rotten sash windows to ground floor front elevation with timber sash windows on a like-for-like basis.

Mr Philip Nedin – 6 Robinswood Close, Penarth – Conversion of existing attached single storey garage.

J V Tree Services – Riversdale,

Causeway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge – 30 per cent reduction of lime tree, removal of two birch trees and reduction of Holm oak and two maple trees.

Mr and Mrs Daniels – 5 Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas, Cardiff – Demolition of existing timber conservatory and replacement with new steel framed, slated roof, PVCu conservatory.

Kingfisher Developments (Wales) – 9 Wine Street, Llantwit Major – Change of use; front ground floor, retained as office. Rear ground floor, one bedroom flat with kitchen and bathroom. First floor, one bedroom flat with kitchen and bathroom.

Mr Gerald Keen – Hendrewennol, Bonvilston – Erection of a timber framed barn for use by customers to purchase fruit and related produce, and refresh-

ments. Ms S Myers and Mr R Law – West Aberthaw Farm, St Athan – Repair and refurbishment works to listed farmhouse; reslating with natural slate replacement rainwater goods, drainage lime mortar pointing, lime wash and render repairs, forming a new storm porch, replacing joinery with traditionally detailed sections, modifying pitch to roof of 1970s East kitchen, internal repairs, regrading ground at rear where existing concrete channel is inadequate to prevent serious issues of dampness. Pointing and refurbishment of chimneys, etc.

Mrs Nicola Richards – Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston – Extension of existing wall at access, with a stone faced low wall with stone piers at approximately 2m centres and a close boarded timber infill fence.

Pupils take part in pyjama day at All Saints Primary to raise money for Children in Need

One lucky pupil wins a hamper
(when it was found)!

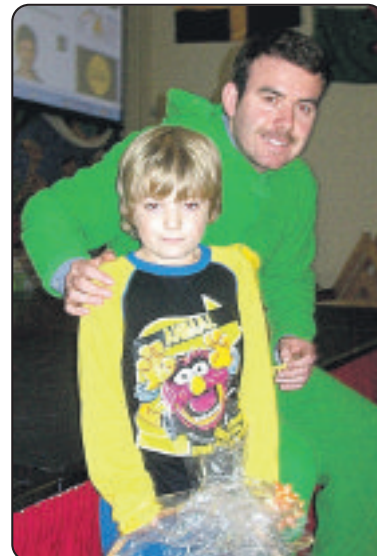
LAST Friday, Children in Need was celebrated in style at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School.

Staff and pupils alike entered into the fun by wearing their pyjamas and onesie suits to school and even headteacher, Richard Ware, wore his giant mouse outfit.

A monster Pudsey Bear hamper was raffled, although the year-6 pupils lost track of it for a while and had to pay a forfeit by singing a song: 'We've Lost Pudsey' on the stage.

Everyone had a brilliant day and a whopping sum of more than £450 was raised for Children in Need.

The hamper was won by lucky pupil Callum Tanner.



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Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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• Double-glazing
• Gardens

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CERI ROAD, RHOOSE

H4U reference 267165
Suit for a single person or couple over 40
• Two-bedroom flat
• Ground floor (steps)
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens

Rent £80.28 pw inc water & service charges

COURT ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 205797
Suit for a single person
• Studio apartment
• Ground floor
• Central heating
• Double-glazing

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HATHAWAY PLACE, BARRY (2)

* H4U Reference 211623
Suitable for a family
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• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens

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H4U reference 213164
Suitable for a single person couple or small family - no pets
• Two-bedroom flat
• Upstairs
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Communal gardens

Rent £80.00 pw inc water & service charges

LON YR EGLWYS, BARRY

H4U Reference 250019
Suit for a single person or couple over 40
• Two-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens

Rent £82.09 pw inc water & service charges

MAIN STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1097478
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Gas central heating
• Double-glazing
• Enclosed rear garden
• Parking

Rent £85.86 per week including service charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U reference 218255
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• Upstairs
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Water meter

Rent £74.79 pw including water and service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1096124
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
• One-bedroom flat
• Upstairs (with lift)
• Walk-in shower
• Economy 7 heating
• Managerial alarm

Rent £102.15 per week including service charge

OGMORE PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 218621
Suitable for a family
• Two-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens

Rent £92.33 per week including water charges

RECTORY ROAD, BARRY

H4U reference 1041982
Suit for a single person or couple - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing

Rent £75.25 per week including service charge

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U reference 243339
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• Second floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Warden and alarm

Rent £100.56 per week including water charges

SHAKESPEARE AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244424
Preference given to larger families
• Three-bed parlour house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens

Rent £107.90 per week including service charges

SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 223670
Suit for a single person, couple or small family
• Two-bedroom flat
• Lower ground
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Communal garden

Rent £80.24 pw inc water & service charges

TENSING TERRACE, BARRY

H4U reference 225909
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• One-bedroom flat
• Upstairs
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Alarm system

Rent £84.36 pw inc water, service & alarm chg

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Magellan Close	84	Gold	01/08/12
Philippa Freeth Ct	20	Silver	26/03/12
Poets Field Road	68	Gold	01/03/11
Wellwood Drive		WITHDRAWN	

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.





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Scott Close, St Athan - £500 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, GCH
Lougher Place, St Athan - £525 pcm
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Greenway Court, Barry - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, kitchen/diner, enclosed garden.
Crawshaw Drive, Llantwit Major - £550 pcm
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Mallory Close, St Athan - £550 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden

Murlande Way, Rhoose - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, shower room, front and rear gardens.
Murlande Way, Rhoose - £555 pcm
Two bedrooms, drive and GCH.
Murlande Way, Rhoose - £575 pcm
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Kendrick Road, Barry - £560 pcm
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Manor Park, Llantwit Major - £625 pcm
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Llys Dwywnen, Llantwit Major - £675 pcm
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Birthdays

KATE BROWN


Happy 30th Birthday
on 25th November



With lots of love from Gareth and
all your family (old and new!)
x x x x x x x x x

ALAN HOPKIN

**Happy 60th
Birthday Today**
22-11-2012
Enjoy your day!
With lots of love
from Carol xxx



Anniversaries

Clifford & Vera TANNER

Congratulations to our precious Mum & Dad,
Gramma & Grampy on their
Diamond Anniversary on 29th November.
We are all so lucky to
have you both.
Lots of love from
all the family
x x x



Family Notices

WILLIAMS Vincent (Vince)

Mary, Alan and family would like to say thank
you to all the many relatives and friends who
attended Vince's funeral and for the personal
flowers, messages of sympathy and donations
received. We would also like to say a special
thank you to Anthony and staff at A G Adams
and particularly to Rev Irfan James for his
words of comfort and support.

JONES

Elizabeth Valmai (Val)
Formerly of Llanfair TH
Passed away peacefully at home in her sleep with
her family. Beloved wife of Dr Owen Llewelyn Jones,
much loved and adored by sons Geraint, Rhys and
the late Eryl, adored Nain to Seren and Martha,
will be sadly missed by all.
Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on
Monday, 26th November at 12 noon followed by
cremation at Cychurch Crematorium.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired,
made payable to the British Red Cross and forwarded
to the British Red Cross, Ground Floor, River House,
Cardiff CF15 9SS.

SMALL

15th November 2012, peacefully in hospital,
Robert aged 75 years, of Hurworth.
Reunited with his loving wife Maureen, much loved
and greatly missed dad of Elaine, Tracy and Keld,
loving brother of Deirdre, wonderful grandad of Iona,
Mairi and Aiden. Funeral Monday 26th November.
Would friends please meet at 10.45am for service at
Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only please.
Donations, if so desired, to Darlington Stroke Club.

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ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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Blackmill marks Remembrance Sunday in the sunshine



Words and photos by
MICHAEL RIDLEY



GEM reader Michael Ridley submitted these photographs of the Blackmill Remembrance Sunday service.

He said: "The day went well, the morning was dry and the sun was out. The service was led by Paran Chapel, the minister was Rev Peter Elwood, and the deacons were Mr Bill Griffiths and Mr Brian Harris.

"It was a good turn-out by the local people of Blackmill."



Carer invites readers GET 'BREATHLESS IN BRIDGEND'

BRIDGEND resident Elin Jones, who cared for her husband during a long period of ill-health, is encouraging people to get 'Breathless in Bridgend' - a joint initiative between ABMU Health Board and the British Lung Foundation Wales.

On November 28, from 1pm-3pm, she will be in attendance at an event in Maesteg Leisure Centre called 'Breathless in Bridgend', where she will be joined by other members of her Breathe Easy group, to let people know of the help and support that is available for the one in five people in Wales affected by lung disease.

In 2008, after already having a diagnosis of chronic breathing problems, her husband, Rheinallt, was diagnosed with Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis. The condition, which has no known cause or current treatment, had a profound impact on their day-to-day living, until Rheinallt sadly passed away in March of this year.

Elin used to work as a secretary in St Fagans Museum, and has spent the last few years caring for her husband who became increasingly breathless as a result of his lung condition.

In 2009, they started to attend the local Breathe Easy group

together, which is supported by the British Lung Foundation. The group provides valuable social support, as well as providing opportunities to hear from guest health and community speakers about what people can do to improve their quality of life.

Elin Jones said: "The group quickly became very important to us. It was good to meet other people who share the same experiences and everyday difficulties that are faced by people with lung disease. "As a carer, it was useful for me to attend to try and understand what my husband was going through, physically and emotionally."

Elin is still attending the group, which has provided many enjoyable memories and brought her lots of friends.

Now she wants other people to receive the same support and advice as she has.

Elin continued: "I want everyone in the area who has a lung condition to come along to Maesteg Leisure Centre - whether it's asthma, COPD, IPF, or lung cancer - there is support out there for you."

Festive crafts

ON November 28 at 6.30pm, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will be opening its doors to the public for the Christmas fair.

As part of the year-10 students' Welsh Baccalaureate enterprise, they have been busy creating everything crafty for the perfect Christmas. There will be a special visit from Santa with the opportunity to have photos taken with him in the grotto.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

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Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01165/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition, alteration and extension works to apartment Nos. 1- 3 Llandough Castle Flats
Location:/Lleoliad:	1-3, Llandough Castle Flats, Llandough
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01178/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Replace rotten sash windows to ground floor front elevation with timber sash windows on a like for like basis
Location:/Lleoliad:	77, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01185/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Repair and refurbishment works to listed farmhouse: reslating with natural slate replacement rainwater goods, drainage lime mortar pointing, lime wash and render repairs, forming a new storm porch, replacing joinery with traditionally detailed sections, modifying pitch to roof of 1970s East Kitchen, internal repairs, regrading ground at rear where existing concrete channel is inadequate to prevent serious issues of dampness. Pointing and refurbishment of chimneys etc.
Location:/Lleoliad:	West Aberthaw Farm, St, Athan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01208/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of a single storey timber framed orangery replacing existing extension and garage.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Swanbridge House, St. Marys Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01152/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Dwelling house with treatment plant drainage and access, in connection with racing stables
Location:/Lleoliad:	Pant Wilkin Stables, Aberthyn, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 22nd November, 2012

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

SECONDS SLIP UP TO ST PETERS

BARRY SECONDS returned to league action against St Peters, who put more than 60 points past them on the opening weekend, with a severely depleted squad which saw two debutants and the Barrian player-manager named as front row cover at one point on the bench.

The writing appeared on the wall when the home side scored early on to ease into the lead, but Barry responded by sticking to their strengths, utilising their strike runners with Grantley Harris and Lee David in the fore.

They were rightly rewarded with a try of their own when Elliot Evans latched onto an loose ball to score under the posts. Adam Lee added the extras.

The home side tried to play a high-tempo, back-orientated game which was entertaining but not particularly effective against the aggressive defence of Barry, marshalled superbly by Jack Giddings, Nick Rolfe and Lee Jones.

Constant home pressure did bring two tries for St. Peters, but Barry replied with Lee's boot and Giddings' try just before half-time to leave the game on a knife-edge.

The match swung one way then the other in the second half. Barry

stormed into the lead, taking advantage of a home sin-binning, as Adam Lee scored and converted a try - his fifth of the season, but St Peters regained the lead with two tries of their own.

The first was the result of a suspiciously forward pass, and the second a penalty try when David Williams was adjudged to have knocked the ball on deliberately. Both decisions were contentious to say the least.

The away side never gave up, characteristic of their performance on the day, and were rewarded with a well-taken Ryan Case try. Barry threw the kitchen sink at their opponents in the dying seconds, but in the end were beaten by the clock, the final score 41-34.

Despite the defeat, the Bombers will return home with their heads held high with this spirited performance, and also with two losing bonus points!

Team: Poole; Case, Harris, D Williams, Evans; J Williams, Lee; Leighton Jones, Houldey, Ring; Giddings, Westall; David, Lee Jones, Rolfe (c). **Substitutes:** Hall, Betts, Bailey. **Substitute not used:** Chow. **Man of the match:** Giddings.

For full match reports, player statistics and the latest news, please visit the club's official website at <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/barryrlyric>.

KC

The Rhoose under-9s are real 'Cool' cats!



Pictured above are Rhoose FC under-9s and their coach Paul Humphry in their new kit, sponsored by Cool 2 u mobile air conditioning.

BARRY CHESS CLUB MATCH ROUND-UP

ALTHOUGH the East Glamorgan Chess League is only a third of the way through in some divisions, the championship and relegation places seem cut and dried already.

This is not the case in division 3 where every team is capable of beating any other team.

The Quarks do not play their seventh game until next week when they take on a Caerphilly team. Both of these teams currently have 17 points and stand in third and fourth place in the division.

The Quarks team may be weakened as the Camelots have a division 2 match on the same night. It will therefore take a superb effort to retain our position within the three promotion places.

The Gambits have already played this week and earned a 2 1/2 - 2 1/2 draw with the Penarth

Barons. This follows on from last week's excellent victory away at Pontypridd where we earned two wins and three draws to win by 3 1/2 - 1 1/2.

Peter Watkins, Phil Jones and Dave Mahoney featured in both of these matches. Peter proved yet again how difficult he can be to defeat and earned draws in both of his games.

Phil managed a draw and then a slightly fortunate win while Dave lost his match against Penarth, he did manage a win at Pontypridd although he did his best to lose the game when he trapped his own queen in a corner, but managed to salvage a win after some exchange games.

These good results have come after two poor defeats. The Gambits sit in mid table but are only two points above Penarth who are in eighth position just inside the relegation places and only slightly further from the promotion places.

This is a close division that also saw Penttyrch from ninth place out of ten defeat Cardiff Crowns, who currently top the division. The team to watch is North Cardiff Cheetahs. They narrowly missed promotion last season and are moving up the division steadily. They will also be the Gambits next opponents in two weeks time.

For more details visit our website <http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com>

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

PJ

Bowls club looks to the future

HAVING survived a less than delightful season, not to mention the appalling weather, Cadoxton Bowling Club has elected new officers and is gearing up for a much happier time next year.

The new chairman is Derek Brook and the new club captain is Don Kuhnell, while the club's vice-captain is Gordon Davies.

Looking after the club's other team are A side captain Steve Clarke and vice-captain David Fanning. Don Kuhnell continues as honorary treasurer and David Fanning remains honorary secretary. Les Cundliffe has been re-elected as the club's president.

"What we are looking for most of all," said David Fanning, "is new blood, both youngsters and middle-aged players, whether new to the game or more experienced, to help us win back our position as one of the more successful — and oldest — bowling clubs in the Vale."

Discussions are already under way at the club to find ways of boosting the intake of new younger members and consideration is being given to a scholarship scheme that would be unique among Welsh bowling clubs.

And it's not just for men! The Cadoxton Ladies Bowling Club has been doing well of late

and would welcome new players. Apart from providing loads of healthy outdoor exercise, the bowling green at Victoria Park is one of the best-maintained in the county and is situated in an award-winning park that is the envy of most visitors.

The final event of this season is the club's presentation evening, on Friday, November 23, when trophies are handed over to the club competition winners.

Tony Bishop won the championship competition; Len Davies won the handicap and the novice competitions; Howard Hellyar won the two bowl competition, Roy Harding won the Jack Hartman memorial competition and, together with Steve Clarke won the pairs competition, while Gordon Davies, Phil Ellis, and Jim Sugden won the triples competition.

A couple of weeks after that, the club has gladly made its clubhouse available for the yearly 'Carols in the Park' fundraiser on Friday, December 14 in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support nurses.

Things start up again in the new year with the club's opening day on Saturday, April 20 from 2pm in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome and the club will readily provide bowls and helpful coaching to anyone new to the game.

DF

Local YMCA gymnasts savour medal glory!

BARRY YMCA gymnasts completed a successful year on the competition scene with some good results in recent Welsh and international competitions.

15 year old Welsh Academy member Kiera Brennan was part of the gold medal winning Welsh team at the Northern European Championships.

She climbed onto the podium again in the individual event when she claimed third place on the vault, and narrowly missed out on further medals when she placed a fantastic fourth in the all around event and fourth on bars.

These were great results for Kiera, who has been involved in gymnastics since the age of 3.

Barry gymnasts were also in action at the Welsh Intermediate Championships. Alana Stokes (12) competed in the 12/13 years event where she performed a rock solid routine on beam to place second, and swung her way to a fourth place ribbon on bars.

Her good performances on all four pieces of apparatus resulted in her placing third overall. Nia Davies also performed in this age group, successfully performing a new vault.

Lara Watkins (9) competed in this level of competition for the first time and did a great job. She gained a fifth place ribbon on floor.

Five of Barry YMCA's gymnasts were recently in action at the Welsh Novice Championships. Following a successful

outing at the South Central Novice Championships, Bria Karim, Catrin Long, Dee Clarke, Erin Gamble and Tesni Gardiner gained selection into teams to represent the area at the Welsh Novice Championships.

Catrin competed in the 12/13 years team and assisted them in becoming the team champions in this age group.

Bria, Erin and Evie joined two other South Central gymnasts to claim the bronze medal in the 8/9 years category while Tesni Gardiner enjoyed similar success in the 10/11 years category when the South Central team also placed third.

Well done to all gymnasts, and as always thank you to the coaches for their continued dedication.

KD

Mixed fortunes for Bees

BARRY Bees under-10s made the short journey to Penarth for a round robin with the hosts and Penalter.

Unfortunately a sickness bug decimated the Barry pack, and with player resources stretched the Bees were forced to field an inexperienced team against an exceptionally strong Penarth side.

Penarth were always in command and led 10-0 at the break, with Barry struggling to contain the ferocity of the Penarth forwards.

A scintillating solo try from the inspirational Cian Anderson brought the Bees back into contention at the start of the second half, but with the rub of the green going against them for a couple of late tries, the final score was 25-5.

The Bees regrouped for the second match against a powerful Penalter

team, and played high tempo and incisive rugby from the outset.

Jake Frost crashed over for the first try, and Cole Saunders finished an excellent move to put the Bees in the driving seat. Barry continued to pile on the pressure and Jacob Pereira increased the lead with another powerful finish.

Eventually Penalter came to terms with the pace of the game and responded with a good score to make the half time score 15-5.

There was no respite in intensity in the second half as both sides strove to gain ascendancy; but despite some sublime flowing rugby from the Bees there was no further score.

It was a great response from all the team, and the new boys showed immense character after being thrown in at the deep end.

JM

Ship and Imps share the spoils

SHIP Inn faced Cadoxton Imps and both sides were more than up for it.

The last time the sides met Imps recorded their first win of the season so the home side were looking for a bit of revenge.

Imps started the brighter and Darryl took on three players and put it past the keeper with a delightful chip to make it 1-0.

Just before half time some good work down the right saw a deep cross and who else but Gwyn Good nodded home at a tight angle to make it 1-1.

It could have been better for the Imps but a late shot from Harvey went high and wide.

Some good play in the second half from Mark Lewis and Ryan Pike down the left caused the Ship problems, but it was again the Darryl show as he broke down the right, took on another three players plus the keeper and put Imps 2-1

up. With 15 minutes left on the clock the Ship made the breakthrough with a long ball that crept over the head of Logan and their striker equalised.

Imps still had chances to win it at the death with Darryl, on for the hat trick, striking the bar, and Nick Williams saw a long range effort go wide of the post.

Then, in the last minute, Mark was put through but was tripped on the edge of the box and the resulting free kick was smashed into the wall, the game finishing 2-2.

It was a brilliant game and both sides played their part.

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Llandaff scrape past Barry at the Reservoir Field

LAST Saturday Barry entertained Llandaff North, the Cardiff club who were positioned just below them in the league.

The visitors had done their homework on the local geography and soon put this knowledge to good use. They camped in Barry territory with both backs and forwards driving to the low corner of the field.

A series of scrums and lineouts had the home side struggling to keep them at bay. Barry were not helped by an over-officious referee who in the first 10 minutes penalised them on 10 occasions, while not judging Llandaff North guilty of any transgressions!

The visitors nosed ahead after half an hour via a

pushover try from a lineout, but their touchline kick was unsuccessful. The Barry set scrums were coming under heavy pressure and it was left to the loose forwards to redress the balance.

In this regard, Degaura and Parker played prominent roles. The home side got just reward for their efforts when Provis rounded off a good move by the backs to cross wide out. Lee converted with a fine kick from the touchline to put Barry into the lead going into the interval.

With the slope advantage in the second session, Barry were confident of securing a much-needed win. Within five minutes of the restart they had scored a fine try by Hadfield after the groundwork had been laid by Evans, Jones, Provis and Hardy. Barry's total was increased to 14 points with an excellent conversion by Lee.

Llandaff North were not finished yet, however. Building on their superiority at the scrum, they attacked the Barry defence with gusto.

The try, when it came, had an air of inevitability about it. After twenty minutes the visitors went into the lead, courtesy of a further penalty. A rare foray by the home forwards allowed Lee to land a penalty, which saw the lead revert to the hosts.

From this juncture to the final whistle, the arbiter revealed a bewildering array of rule interpretations leaving players of both sides confused. Each side were given chances to take advantage of penalty awards. However, it was the visitors who held their nerve to take a late opportunity to run out victors by the narrowest of margins.

Barry: Dix, Adams, Provis, Buckland, Bounds, Hardy, Lee, Jones, Hadfield, Parker, Tanner, Degaura, O'Sullivan, Evans, Lundy. Replacements: Thorne, Scott, Poole, Thomas.

Next fixture is away to Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 8.

CO

Sully Sports just squeeze past Llanrumney in thriller

COLD, clear, light wind and slightly soft conditions were perfect for rugby, and both Sully Sports and Llanrumney, who are battling at the top of the WRU 6th Division, put on a no quarter, pulsating game.

Chris Cummings missed an early penalty and the visitors took the lead against the run of play, when good support and a couple of quickly taken tap penalties produced a fine try in the corner.

The Sports took control of the game there after, but it took another 15 minutes on the attack to break down the visitors.

Llanrumney's lineout, only 5 metres from their line, was won by the Sports, who set up a driving maul for prop Jody Velda to grab a try, converted by Cummings.

Ten more minutes of Sully Sports pressure yielded a penalty, slotted over by Cummings, after a red card, but to Llanrumney's credit they re-grouped and changed their style of play by playing a less forward oriented game.

This paid dividends deep into first half stoppage time, a clever chip through the home

defence yielded a converted try, although it appeared as if the home fullback Wayne Jones had won the race to the touchdown, and also that the ball had crossed the deadball line before the Llanrumney threequarter got his hands to it.

Turning round at the interval 12-10 down was not a scoreline that reflected the Sports dominance of possession, chances and territory, and now with the wind at their backs and the visitors a man short, the odds looked in their favour, even when Llanrumney kicked an early penalty to increase their lead to five points.

From the restart, Nathan Taylor weaved his way across the face of the posts to find winger Nathan Szucknich in support, who drove in for a try. Cummings added the extras and put the Sports back in the lead.

Instead of capitulating, Llanrumney proved that their fine start to the season was not a fluke, and in the next ten minutes they mounted attack after attack, racing into a 10 point lead with two tries, earning them a bonus point.

The momentum of Llanrumney meant it was the home team that were facing defeat but it was the home XV that then got the upper hand and as the game entered the final quarter, Cummings

slotted over a 35 metre penalty, and five minutes later, he found touch five metres out with a well struck penalty.

The Sports won the lineout, and the pack set up an unstoppable driving maul that saw No 8 Jason Evans score the try, for Cummings to add the conversion and draw the scores level.

Two minutes later, Cummings shaved the outside of the right hand post with a 50m penalty from the centre spot and with two minutes left, the Sports were awarded a penalty a metre inside the visitors half, and 15 metres from the touch-

MJS

Ben and Harri enjoy junior tennis success



JUNIOR tennis champions Ben Rose, aged 14 of St Nicholas Road, Barry and Harri Williams, also 14 years old, of Oxford Street, Barry received their end of season trophies at a special presentation event at Barry Tennis Club.

Ben took the junior title after a gruelling two hour long, three set final.

The junior section had a busy season, meeting every Friday evening until September and also on Monday mornings during the summer school holidays. Rain prevented play on just two occasions.

Commenting on their

efforts, Roy Gibson of Barry Tennis Club said: "The junior sessions were well supported with as many as eighteen teenagers playing at the same time. The final was a real marathon display between Ben and Harri Williams and they fully deserve their trophies."

Barry Tennis Club is affiliated to Tennis Wales, the national governing body for tennis in Wales, which is part of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

The club is run by volunteers and is funded by membership fees, which are kept as low as possible, with any profits re-invested back into the club's activities and its facilities.

AG

Barry youth overcome St Josephs

BARRY RFC youth captain Luke O'Sullivan chose to play uphill against visitors St Josephs.

Within minutes surges by the Barry forwards saw the ball released to the captain and he ran in for the first score from thirty metres.

The home side did well against the large pack in the scrum, one of the few occasions this year where they dominated in this set piece, and lineout plays also went well.

The backs now started to move the ball neatly with some straight direct running from Brad White putting the visitors' tackling to the test; it was now all one way for Barry.

The next score was also from the home side with a neat all hands move out to winger Tom Adams who stretched his legs and went around his opposite number, cut in and placed the ball under the posts for an easy conversion.

Under pressure St Joe's managed to counter and they also scored out wide after finding themselves with an overlap which they did not squander. The next score came from an attacking Barry lineout.

The ball was palmed down which did not please scrum-half Mephram, but he cleverly picked up, darted through

the wall under tackles and raced through to be tackled on the line but managing to touchdown as he was grounded.

An overlap and open field went begging when the referee deemed an opposition player receiving treatment from the trainer an obstacle to safety, and blew to bring Tom Adams back from a certain try. There was no further action before the whistle.

Hoping to make use of the slope and the elements to top up the score after the break did not come to fruition until later in the half.

From a five metre scrum the number eight O'Sullivan drove to the line and touched down tackling tacklers with him.

However the referee deemed him held up and awarded another scrum; this ball was taken up three quick phases and passed through hands to Oaten who went over to make the final score 22-5.

This weekend is Rhiwbina away in the league.

Squad: B Wall, J Legg, J Flynn, R Mephram, J Adams, L O'Sullivan, J Miles, S Vidal, M Howells-Davies, C Prosser, N Harris, K Davies, T Adams, J Taylor, E Byrne, A Williamson, B White, D Evans, J Oaten, L Davies, R Burnett, Mitchell Scott, M O'Sullivan.

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NEW TOYOTA IS A REAL TONIC IN THESE HARD TIMES

**Motoring with
Tim Saunders**

THE Nissan 370Z and Audi TT are dead. Long live the Toyota GT86.

Producing an unbiased road test on such a fabulous coupe is virtually impossible, because its looks tug at the heart-strings, while its interior and what's under the bonnet make any motorist drool.

It brings back memories of my Nissan 370Z road test a couple of years ago but the GT86 demands considerably more attention.

Any Celica fan is sure to enjoy the GT86, which uses a gutsy 197bhp Subaru boxer engine, the flat four cylinders laid on their sides, allowing it to be mounted lower in the body. This lowers the centre of gravity and improves handling.

Inside, the driver slides into a well-appointed luxury cockpit featuring a sculpted dashboard, heated front seats, sat nav, air conditioning and electric front windows.

An excellent driver's seat hugs in all the right places providing plenty of lumbar support. Occupants look out over a curvaceous bonnet

while a glance in the wing mirrors highlights the aggressive rear haunches, although slightly tamer than a 370Z.

This is a welcome return to proper 'seat of the pants' driving for Toyota. Because the GT86 is so low to the ground drivers have to be reasonably athletic and toned to get in and out without causing embarrassment.

The GT86 is a thoroughly engaging and enjoyable coupe to drive and what's more, there's ample room in the back for passengers.

Its six-speed automatic box has been designed to look like a manual and paddle shifts on the steering wheel allow it to be driven like one.

The auto is also slightly more efficient than its manual counterpart, returning 37mpg during the course of the test.

"The Toyota GT86 is a lightweight, fun-to-drive coupe that the Japanese fan hopes will tempt performance car buyers back to the brand," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"It is aimed squarely at enthusiasts. Critics have been disappointed



The Toyota GT86

recently with the absence of any type of sporty offering from Toyota, the firm foregoing fun in favour of reliable, economical and family-friendly machines.

"Co-developed with Subaru, the recipe looks good on paper. The first thing to note is that this car is rear-wheel-drive, which for purists is the only way to make a sports car. It has relatively thin tyres for a modern performance car too, which further serves to improve the driving experience and make it more exciting at lower speeds."

This roadster is the ideal tonic for recession: it revives low self-esteem. For me, cars have always been a passionate hobby and at a

time when my full time role of PR manager becomes redundant, the GT86 takes my mind off it.

"Anyone going through a similar situation is well advised to step inside the GT86 and floor it. You'll feel so much better, especially when that unmistakable roar sounds from the oversized chrome exhausts.

"At a certain rpm the valves open up and the sound resonates throughout the cabin in a similar way to the Mazda MX-5, as you can tell in the video at testdrives.biz. Book a test drive today!"

As a footnote though, die-hard speed freaks have been disappointed with the GT86 because while it is fast, it doesn't

share the gut wrenching force of a Maserati, for instance. This minority will be pleased to hear that Gazoo Racing has added a supercharger and a turbocharger to the two-litre engine to pump out 315bhp.

So that should do the trick, lads.

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Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

Dinas get back to winning ways away from home

DINAS POWYS FC got back to winning ways on Saturday, beating Croesyceiling 1-0, but they left it very late before securing the points.

Croesy started well forcing two early corners which the visitors' defence dealt with but Dinas seemed a little tentative and were having trouble keeping their feet on the heavy pitch.

The first chance for Dinas came when Matt Trotman put in a good cross but the hosts' keeper Jamie Packham was equal to Mark Dunford's effort.

Croesy's cause was not helped when their manager, Mark Waddon had to take the field after a player was injured and Dinas began to press, mainly from crosses by the two wide men Liam Jeremy and Gareth Tedstone. Jeremy found Dunford with a good cross and he brought a good save from Packham at full stretch just under the cross-bar.

Steve Provis, whose long throw-ins were causing panic for Croesy at times, was overlapping down the right and found Dunford but he sliced his shot wide when, perhaps he should have done better and although the hosts looked dangerous at times, they didn't really threaten the Dinas goal and Dinas finished the half well on top.

The second half was pretty much one-way traffic with Dinas well on top but they couldn't get the breakthrough. Trotman struck a good free-kick which was eventually cleared. The two wide men Jeremy and Tedstone swapped wings and this seemed to unsettle the Croesy defence with first a deep cross from Provis forcing Packham to take at full stretch and a throw in from

Provis to Tedstone, who used his pace to get into the box but his shot was off-target. Dunford then played Tedstone in but again he was off target.

Croesy were restricted to long range efforts at this stage but Dinas had Damian Lack to thank when Zac Osborne looked to have opened the scoring with a 25 yard free kick which Lack dived to his right to push round the post. At the other end Liam Jeremy also had a 25 yard free kick on target forcing Packham to tip over the bar.

With the game looking like a stalemate with just 5 minutes remaining, Tedstone burst into the box and Packham could only parry his shot into the path of Dunford to head home from 3 yards for the only goal of the game.

Skipper Adam Raymond had a fine game, battling to control the midfield along with Steffan Davies but hopefully Richard Yarr will soon be fit again.

Jordan Phillips was introduced in place of Matt Trotman who had taken a knock and Dinas saw out the remaining time comfortably.

This Saturday Dinas travel West to take on Garden Village with a 2pm kick off.

Squad: 1 Damian Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 James Bloxham, 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Keiron Harman, 6 Adam Raymond (c), 7 Gareth Tedstone, 8 Steffan Davies, 9 Matt Trotman, 10 Mark Dunford (1) 11 Liam Jeremy. Subs: 12 Rhys Davies, 14 Jordan Phillips, 15 Jac Davies.

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GEM sport

PULVERISED BY PUMAS...CRUSHED BY SAMOANS... Can Gatland lift Black cloud hanging over Welsh rugby?

Pictures
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Two graphic scenes
from the mayhem at
the Millennium:

LEFT: felled
outside half Dan
Biggar lies injured,
blood pouring from
a head wound.

RIGHT: Battered
Welsh players
trudge dejectedly
off the pitch. Can
they recover in
time to face up to
the All Blacks?



If there is such a thing as a 'bogey team' in world rugby, bone-crushing Samoans surely rank high on the list of opponents Wales fear most – and with good cause – despite the South Sea Islanders winning only three of the eight meetings before Friday night's clash at the Millennium Stadium.

For two of these just happened to have been 'crunch' games in more ways than one... On October 6, 1991, underdog Western Samoa, as it then was, stunned Cardiff Arms Park into silence with a 16-13 win in Wales' opening game of the Rugby World Cup; and proved it was no fluke three years later with an emphatic 34-9 win in Apia, Wales' only points coming from the boot of current kicking guru Neil Jenkins.

They did it again in RWC 1999, ending Graham Henry's high-flying host nation's 10-game winning streak with a shock 38-31 victory at the newly-opened Millennium Stadium.

History almost repeated itself for a third time in the torrid battle of Hamilton at RWC 2011, when Wales finally scrambled a 17-10 win, thanks to a Shane Williams try and four penalties – after Samoa had led 10-6 at half time.

So the reshuffled team, showing no fewer than eight changes from the Argentine drubbing the previous

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

weekend, knew full well to expect an all-out war of attrition in the second game of the autumn series in Cardiff.

The Welsh camp, under caretaker head coach Robert Howley, vowed the players "would not take a backward step" and there would be no repeat of the ineffectual display that saw the team being booed off by some in the crowd at the end, with many others leaving long before the final whistle.

Sadly, that was exactly what happened again on Friday, as the Samoan hitmen took over where Argentina had left off and literally battered the Grand Slam champions to an even more crushing 19-26 defeat.

It left shell-shocked Wales' autumn series in tatters, and supporters fearing the worst is yet to come from the awesome All Blacks this weekend.

Despite the promise that this time Wales would come "tearing out of the blocks", the opening whistle had barely sounded when Samoa were seven points up through a swiftly-taken try and conversion (it could have been 10-0 but for a failed penalty); and Wales were immediately on the back foot, where they stayed for most of the game.

Full back Leigh Halfpenny's reliable boot kept his struggling team in the hunt with two well-struck penalties and after Samoa had missed with another penalty attempt, Wales incredibly took a 13-7 lead against the run of play.

Centre Ashley Beck suddenly broke the siege with an interception deep in his own half and sped away for a try, converted by Halfpenny – but a Samoan penalty just on halftime narrowed the score to 13-10.

Samoa began the second half as they began the first – with a try, but Halfpenny restored a one-point lead with a monster kick from halfway. However, it could

not disguise Wales' inability to cope with the Islanders' power at the set-piece and ferocity at the breakdown, while tactical confusion saw the backs kick precious possession away when attack seemed the far better option.

The pendulum swung back Samoa's way with a penalty, but the lead was then wrested back again by Halfpenny, who made it 19-18, before scrum pressure yielded yet another penalty for Samoa, a late try completing the rout – and their fourth triumph over Wales.

What a shame then that this was soured by unsavoury moments which could, and should, have resulted in red cards.

They involved so-called 'clearing out' at the breakdown – more often a euphemism for tackling an opponent without the ball (which my school games teacher 'Tich' Thomas used to say was illegal!) – but, regrettably, now seems to be accepted as the norm in the modern game.

(Remember prop Adam Jones being cynically 'taken out' at an infamous Lions' test in South Africa, while standing motionless yards away from the ball?)

One unifying incident that could have had grave consequences on Friday, saw replacement hooker Ken Owens being bodily lifted and bent backwards out of a ruck by his neck; while young outside half Dan Biggar fell bloodied victim to a reckless off-the-ball charge, with little attempt made to effect a legitimate tackle.

According to a leading match commentator, it was "a fair tackle, good clearing out"... Really?

Yet another questionable episode saw an offender get away with a swinging arm that felled Halfpenny – all this in full view of the supine match officials.

Incredibly, no one received their marching orders (unlike poor Sam Warburton, summarily dismissed for a far less serious offence in last year's Rugby World Cup).

While everyone freely accepts that rugby is a physical 'contact sport', in the interests of player safety, let alone the game's image projected onto TV screens worldwide, it's time



ABOVE: Samoans celebrate – Welsh fans hope it will not be All Black arms raised in triumph this Saturday.

referees adopted a more consistent approach and rigidly enforced the laws, particularly at the scrum and breakdown before someone gets seriously hurt.

That said, the unpalatable truth is that these two autumn defeats have revealed an alarming decline, not only in this talented Welsh squad's level of performance, but in the very spirit and *hwyf* that produced three electrifying Grand Slams in seven years and won glowing praise around the rugby world.

BIGGEST TEST

... And so we move on to the third, and biggest, challenge:

Former Wales head coach Steve Hansen brings the world champions to Cardiff on Saturday – and if the Six Nations title holders found the going tough against Argentina and Samoa, they know they now have to step up to a whole new level when grey clouds turn Black over the Millennium Stadium.

New Zealand have long had what that astute rugby scribe John Billot was wont to call the "Indian sign" on Wales, who have won just three times in 28 attempts since 1905.

That is the scale of the task this young squad face as they prepare to put their battered bodies (and minds) on the line again.

With head coach Warren Gatland thankfully back at the helm from his Lions' duties, albeit briefly, they have another opportunity to restore pride in the red jersey and prove the

Welsh revival has not been derailed. The immediate question is – given the physical and psychological damage done to his demoralised and bemused young troops while he has been away, can Gatland arrest the decline and restore order from chaos, in the all too short time at his disposal?

It's a big ask even for Wales' own Kiwi conjuror, who in truth, has very limited room for manoeuvre.

This showed in the team line-up announced on Tuesday, with its heavy dependence on tried and trusted players who have achieved much for him in the past.

The proud New Zealander is gambling on his loyalty being rewarded and that there will be no further humiliation to come at the hands of his countrymen.

WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny; Alex Cuthbert, Jonathan Davies, Jamie Roberts, George North; Rhys Priestland, Mike Phillips; Paul James, Matthew Rees, Aaron Jarvis, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Ryan Jones, Sam Warburton (captain), Toby Faletau.

REPLACEMENTS: Ken Owens, Gethin Jenkins, Scott Andrews, Aaron Shingler, Justin Tipuric, Tavis Knolly, James Hook, Scott Williams.

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